Macapagal defends, commends BIR chief Bañez

STORY ON PAGE A2

IN THE WEE, SMALL HOURS OF THE MORNING

Powell here in the wee small hours

By N. Bordadora

MILITANT groups may be whistling in the dark.

They may never get a glimpse of the man whose presence

POWELL/A20

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

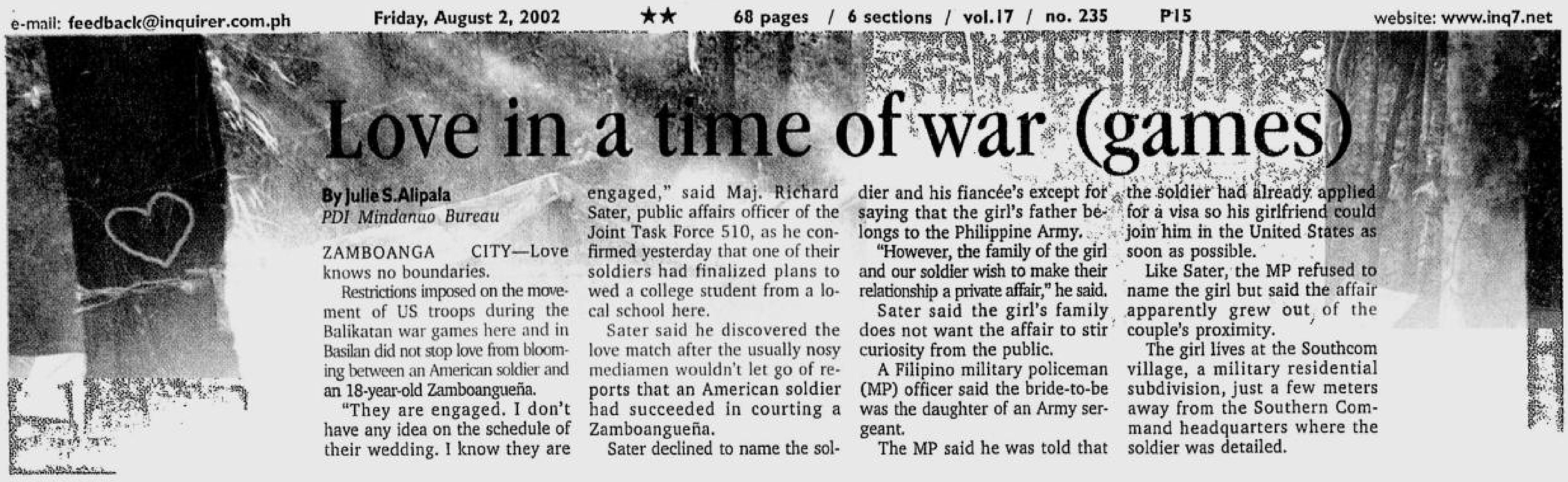
'We are ready to get arrested'

By A. Donato, TJ Burgonio and V. Cabreza

ACTIVISTS will risk arrest in the course of protesting the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell, and human rights lawyers are prepared to test the Bill of Rights in challenging President Macapagal-Arroyo's "minimized tolerance" policy.

WE/A20

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Friday, August 2, 2002 ★★ 68 pages / 6 sections / vol.17 / no. 235 P15 website: www.inq7.net



Love in a time of war (games)

By Julie S. Alipala
PDI Mindanao Bureau

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Love knows no boundaries.

Restrictions imposed on the movement of US troops during the Balikatan war games here and in Basilan did not stop love from blooming between an American soldier and an 18-year-old Zamboangueña.

"They are engaged. I don't have any idea on the schedule of their wedding. I know they are engaged," said Maj. Richard Sater, public affairs officer of the Joint Task Force 510, as he confirmed yesterday that one of their soldiers had finalized plans to wed a college student from a local school here.

Sater said he discovered the love match after the usually nosy mediamen wouldn't let go of reports that an American soldier had succeeded in courting a Zamboangueña.

Sater declined to name the soldier and his fiancée's except for saying that the girl's father belongs to the Philippine Army.

"However, the family of the girl and our soldier wish to make their relationship a private affair," he said.

Sater said the girl's family does not want the affair to stir curiosity from the public.

A Filipino military policeman (MP) officer said the bride-to-be was the daughter of an Army sergeant.

The MP said he was told that the soldier had already applied for a visa so his girlfriend could join him in the United States as soon as possible.

Like Sater, the MP refused to name the girl but said the affair apparently grew out of the couple's proximity.

The girl lives at the Southcom village, a military residential subdivision, just a few meters away from the Southern Command headquarters where the soldier was detailed.

Roco is man to beat

By Gerald Lacuarta and Dona Pazzibugan

A NEW round of surveys gave the President a lift yesterday, but Education Secretary Raul Roco got a bigger bounce. A nationwide survey found him the man most likely to win a presidential election if one were held today.

President Macapagal-Arroyo came a distant third in the Ibon Foundation survey, behind the man she deposed, ex-President Joseph Estrada.

But the Ibon survey, conducted from July 11 to 28, also showed that the President's net satisfaction rating went up to 4.24 percent, from negative 8.17 last January. Another July poll, conducted by HB&A Research International and limited to Metro Manila, showed a doubling in the President's net satisfaction rating to 19, from 8 the previous month.

The findings also indicated a "higher level of hopefulness" despite perceptions that the economy is in poor shape, Ibon research director Antonio Tujan Jr. said.

The Ibon poll asked a total of 1,014 respondents throughout the country the following question: "If the presidential elections were held today, who would you choose for President?"

The biggest plurality, 19.96 percent, chose Roco, while 14.08 percent chose Estrada. Ms Macapagal received only 11.13 percent. The survey has a margin of error of plus or minus 5 percent.

The question was open-ended; that is, there was no list of candidates to choose from. However, only some 47 percent of the respondents answered the question. The rest were undecided.

The Ibon results for Metro Manila were substantially the same: Roco first with 18.80 percent and Estrada next with 18.05 percent. But Sen. Panfilo Lacson was third in the National Capital Region with 15.04 percent, followed by the President with 11.65 percent.

Tujan said Roco appeared to be the top choice because of a largely unblemished image.

"*Mabango*" (that is, good-smelling, implying cleanliness)

ROCO/A7

ROMY HOMILLADA/DENNIS SABANGAN

TOP three: Education Secretary Raul Roco bests his boss, President Macapagal who comes in a poor third; former President Joseph Estrada is a surprising second in the nationwide survey.

TOP PRESIDENTIABLE JULY 2002 SURVEY (Nationwide)

RANK	CANDIDATE	PERCENTAGE
1	RAUL ROCO	19.96
2	JOSEPH ESTRADA	14.08
3	GLORIA ARROYO	11.13
4	PANFILO LACSON	9.66
5	LOREN LEGARDA	7.56
6	FERNANDO POE JR.	5.25
6	TEOFISTO GUINGONA	5.25
	OTHERS	27.10

Source: IBON
Note: A total of 538 respondents out of 1,014 registered their preference for president

Yorac says judgments on $5-B Marcos loot out soon

AFTER a 16-year legal battle, the Philippine government expects within six to 12 months judgments on up to $5 billion worth of disputed assets of the late President Ferdinand Marcos.

Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac told the Foreign Correspondents Association of the Philippines (Focap) yesterday that court decisions involving several Marcos assets were likely to be resolved within a year or less.

The hunt for Marcos assets began after the late strongman was toppled in a bloodless revolt in 1986. The government has so far recovered about $2 billion worth of assets either through litigation or settlements

YORAC/A6

Balikatan structures, not MLSA, Golez clarifies

By Dona Pazzibugan, Christine Herrera and Martin P. Marfil

THE PRESENCE of US troops will be "temporary" but the facilities that they will build under the proposed Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) will be permanent.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez. made this statement on Wednesday.

But yesterday Golez said the MLSA was about supplies and not structures that American forces would build in the country.

"I never said the Americans can construct under the MLSA permanent structures anywhere in the country like helipads, runways, barracks, etc.," he said.

He was clarifying an Inquirer report that quoted him as saying that the MLSA would allow American forces to construct runways, helipads, barracks and roads in the country.

"I mentioned those structures when I talked about the permanent structures constructed by the Americans in Zamboanga

BALIKATAN/A20

'Tis Desierto's last day as Ombudsman

By Michael Lim Ubac

TO HIS critics, it has been seven lean years. To his supporters, however, Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's seven years in office have been fat with achievement.

Desierto, one of the most controversial public officials in recent history, bows out of government service today. He told the Inquirer that he stood by his record, but it is likely he will be remembered also for surviving the threat of impeachment in

TIS/A6

CAP still has to cover trust fund lack—SEC

By Elena R. Torrijos and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

ONLY industry leader College Assurance Plan (CAP) and a small pre-need company have not covered their trust fund deficiencies, according to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Six other pre-need companies were able to cover their deficiencies the past several days in a move to pre-empt negative publicity in case a list of pre-need firms with trust fund shortfall were released to the public.

Because of the deficiencies, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) is pushing for the creation of an investor protection fund for the pre-need industry.

Unlike bank depositors who have the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., which insures

CAP/A6

SC orders gov't to take 12 minors off death row

THERE are 12 minors on death row and the Supreme Court wants them out of there fast.

Yesterday, the high court ordered the government to take the 12 underage convicts off death row, saying it was against the law to execute them.

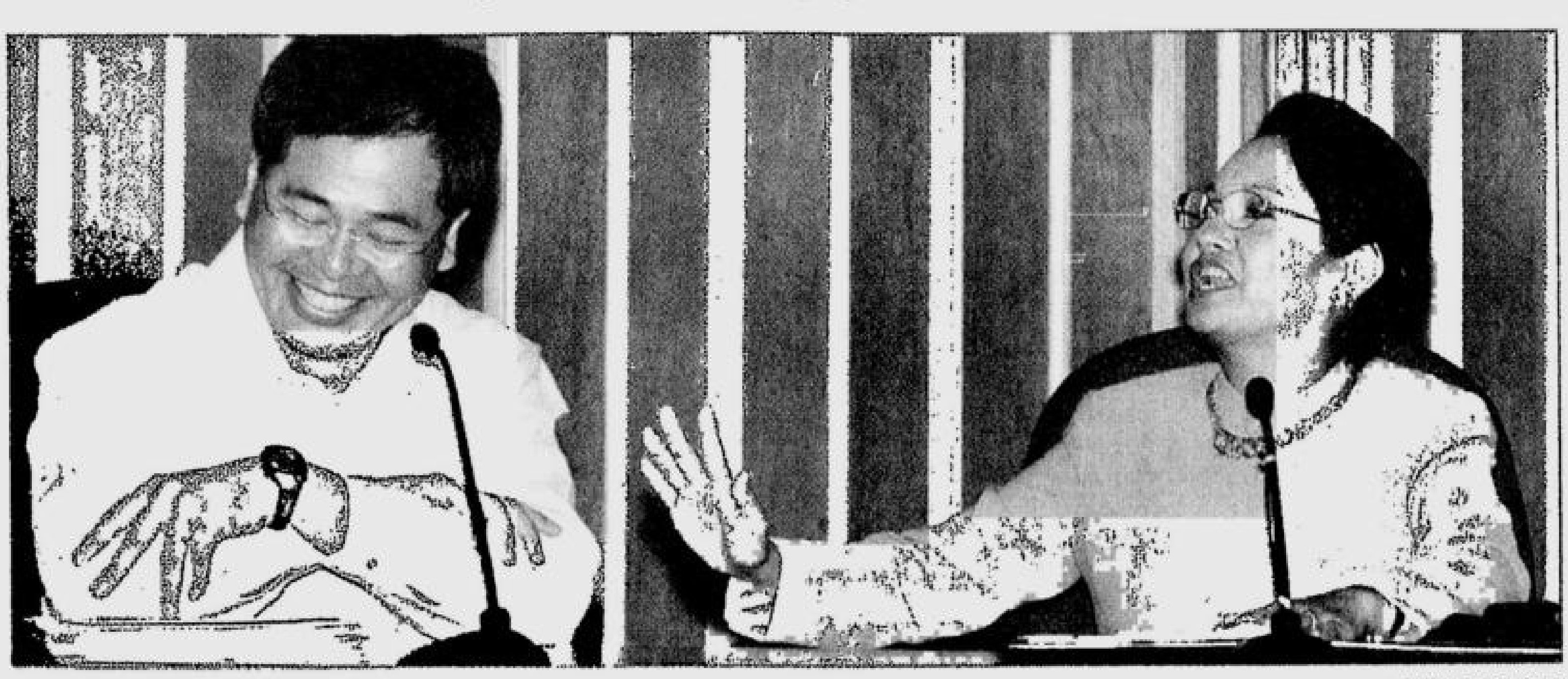
"Death row is no place for youthful offenders," the court said in a statement. "The law provides that minority is a privileged mitigating circumstance which prevents the imposition of the death penalty."

The high court ordered the justice department to immediately transfer the 12, allegedly aged 18 or below, to a medium security compound at the national penitentiary in Muntinlupa.

It issued the ruling in connection with a petition by a Roman Catholic Church-run prison welfare group that the 12 were illegally sentenced to death because of their age.

Prison officials said earlier this week that the government will resume judicial killings next month after a three-year moratorium that went in effect in 2000 amid pressure from the Church.

SC/A20



EDWIN BACASMAS

GO GET 'EM (TAX CHEATS)
President Macapagal comes to the defense of BIR Commissioner Rene Bañez calling allegations of plunder against him "black propaganda" during the BIR's 98th anniversary on Thursday. *(Story on Page A2)*

Nat'l Artist Arcellana dies at 85

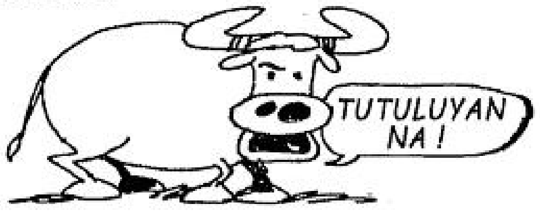
By Ruel S. De Vera

IT was the end when he lost "the secret of living."

National Artist for Literature Francisco "Franz" Arcellana, fictionist, essayist and poet, passed away at 11:45 a.m. yesterday at the age of 85.

"The fiction writer seems to me to possess a starred life, to hold the secret of living, to carry about with him that sense of glory that we all of us seek and never find, the feeling that he is onto things, ahead as in a

NAT'L ARTIST/A21


TUTULUYAN NA!

Second FRONT PAGE

Solons to file raps vs Bañez

By Christine Avendaño

FOLLOWING on his privileged speech accusing Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez of a string of allegedly irregularities, Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo Jr. said he and several other legislators would file a plunder case against Bañez at the Office of the Ombudsman within the month.

Saludo said businessman Manuel Pangilinan, the CEO of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., might even be included as a "co-conspirator" in the plunder case.

He said he would also file a disbarment case against Bañez before the Integrated Bar of the Philippines for "conduct unbecoming a member of the Philippine bar."

In his privileged speech at the House the other day, Saludo accused Bañez of economic sabotage and plunder stemming from his alleged ties with the Fort Bonifacio-Metro Pacific-PLDT conglomerate headed by Pangilinan.

Saludo has accused the BIR under Bañez of paying P1.18 billion in documentary tax liabilities of FBDC, a subsidiary of the Metro Pacific Corp. where Bañez had once been a senior vice president.

The Southern Leyte congressman also accused Bañez of having engineered the reduction of the zonal valuation of FBDC land from P100,000 to P30,000 and for continuing to act as a lawyer for the conglomerate.

Bañez has dismissed Saludo's allegations as "rehashed lies" by the enemies that he had made because of his efforts to clean up the BIR.

Among the legislators who will act as complainants in the plunder case are Representatives Benasing Macarambon, Ed Veloso, Prospero Nograles, Jing Paras and Vicente Sandoval.

"We will see this through to the end," Saludo, a member of the ruling majority, said.

He said a case had been filed against Bañez last year, stemming from the BIR's use of P1.18 billion in a special allotment release order (SARO) to pay for the FBDC's documentary tax liabilities. The case was dismissed on a technicality and not because Bañez was found innocent, he claimed.

Saludo said the Ombudsman dismissed the case because the BIR regional directors who filed it failed to show up.

He also dismissed Bañez's claim that the SARO had been made during the Estrada administration.

Saludo said he had a "strong suspicion" that the SARO had been "antedated to Nov. 27, 2000 to make it appear that it was done during Estrada's time."

As to Bañez's claim that he had not been to Hong Kong for the past two years and thus could not have accompanied Pangilinan there, Saludo said he has seen a videotape showing Bañez with Pangilinan and representatives of the Salim group during the PLDT buy-out talks in Hong Kong between the Salims and the Gokongwei group.

Because of the seriousness of the charges, three congressmen have urged a House investigation into the issue.

Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez said that if Saludo can substantiate his charges with solid evidence, he would support his call for Bañez's ouster.

Gonzalez said that even before Saludo spoke he had heard complaints against Bañez from BIR people saying that he was far from being an inspiring leader.

Rep. Willie Villarama and Macarambon said a House investigation was needed so that both parties could air their side.

Villarama and Rep. Prospero Nograles earlier called for the resignation of Bañez after the BIR failed to meet its revenue collection targets this year.

Gloria takes up cudgels for embattled BIR chief

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday branded as "black propaganda" the accusations of wrongdoing against her chief tax collector and even commended Internal Revenue Commissioner Rene Bañez for going after tax cheats.

Southern Leyte Rep. Aniceto Saludo had accused Bañez of causing the government to lose huge amounts of money by allegedly favoring a conglomerate which he had served in the past.

At the Bureau of Internal Revenue's 98th anniversary celebrations yesterday, the President cited Bañez's action in going after 300 companies that had cheated the government of at least P400 million in unpaid value added taxes.

Ms Macapagal indicated she considered Bañez's efforts to clean up the BIR to have provoked the moves to malign his integrity.

She then gave the floor to Bañez who described Saludo's accusations as "pure lies."

In a news briefing in Malacañang, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said that by using the privileged speech in launching his accusations, Saludo had not given Bañez a chance to defend himself.

"It seems he's subjected to trial by publicity," Bunye said.

Ms Macapagal congratulated the BIR for living up to her challenge to be a showcase in the fight against graft and corruption.

She said the P400 million was only the beginning, as it covered only three of the 19 revenue regions.

Two of the 300 "tax cheats," Southland Security and Coffel Aire Industries, were sued yesterday.

Five more cases are to be filed next week. All 300 companies will be charged by the end of the month.

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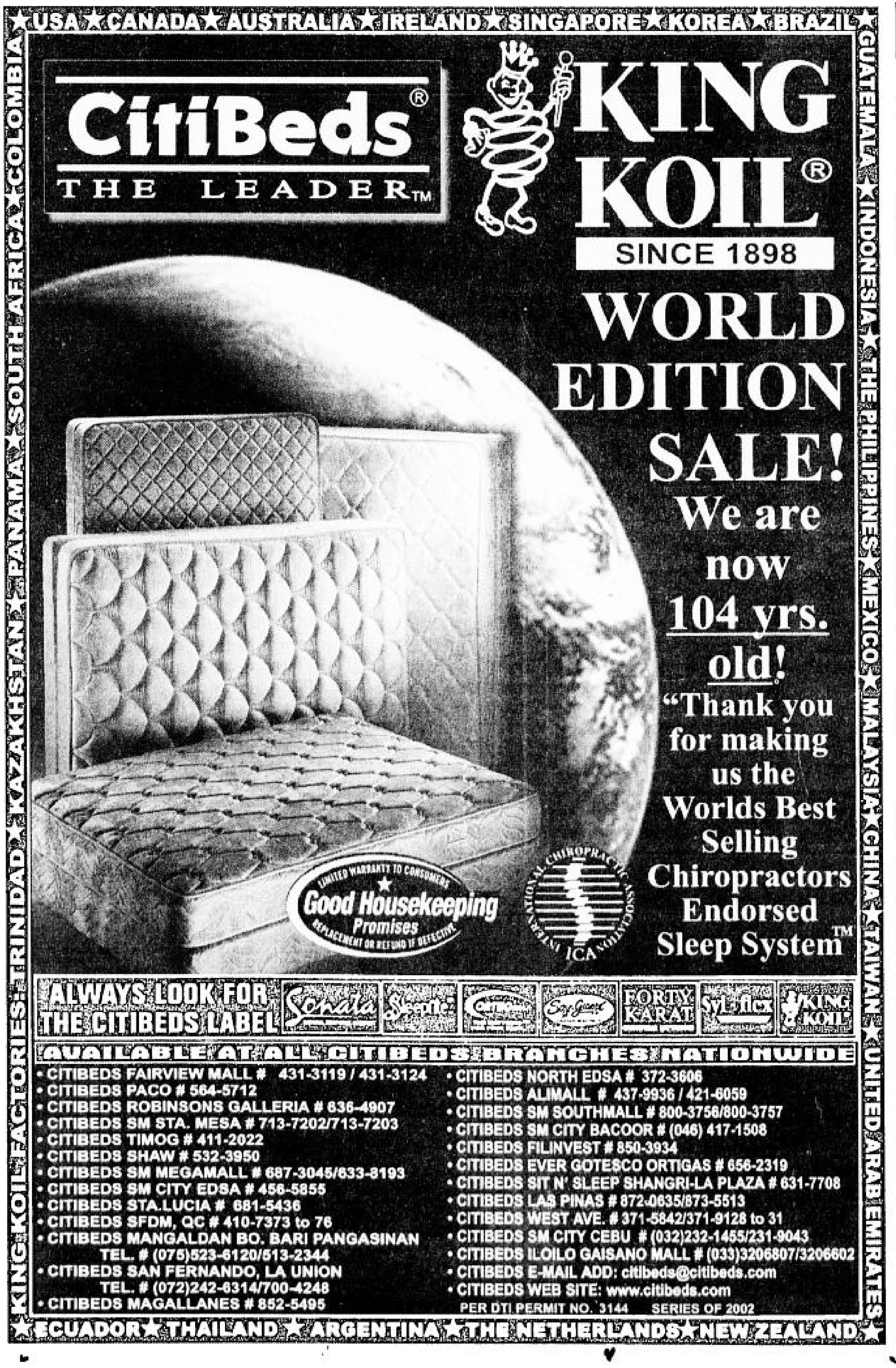
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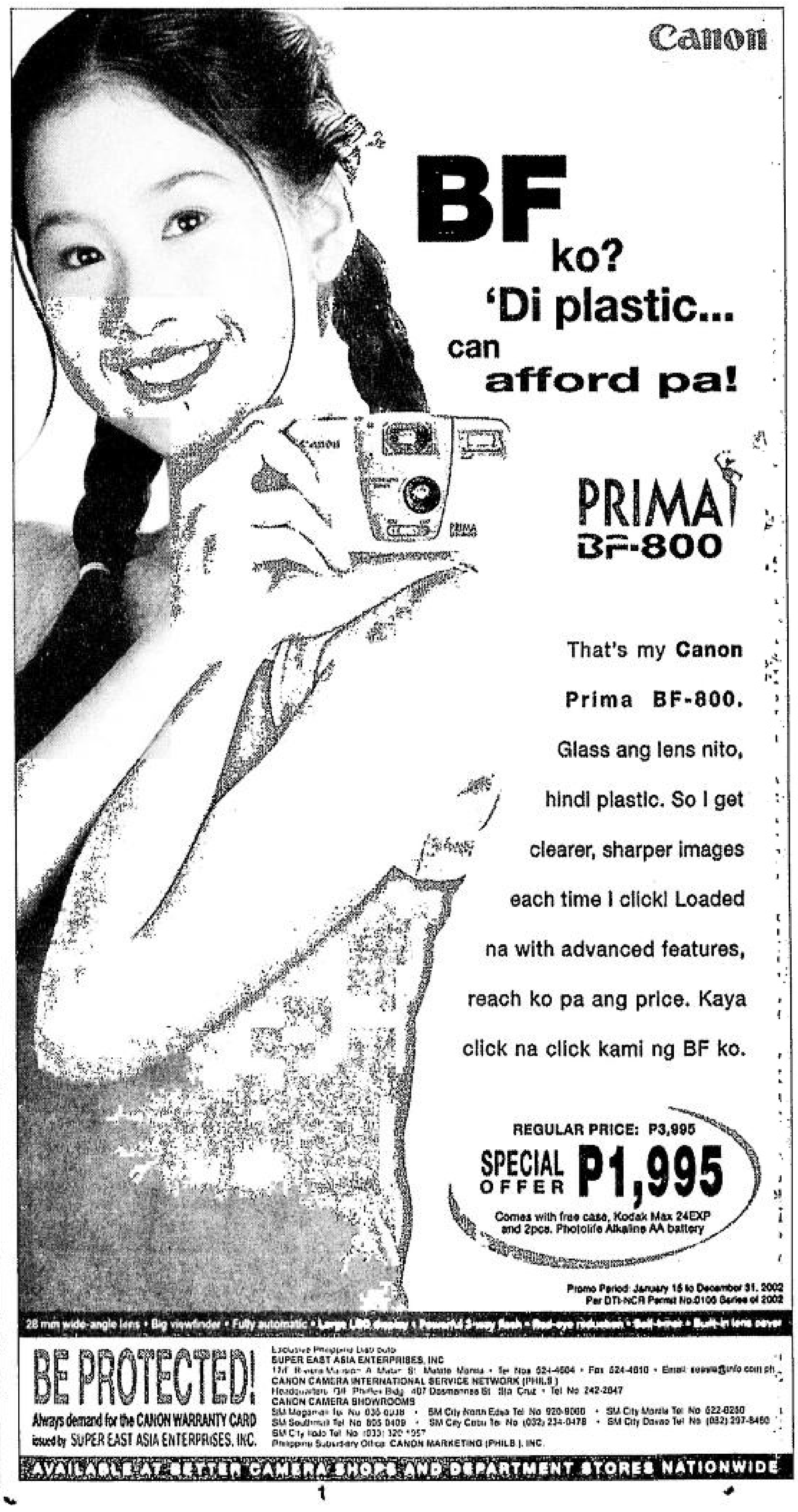
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VAT fraud cost gov't P610B–Recto

By Cynthia D. Balana

A TOTAL of P610.5 billion has been lost to value-added tax evasion from 1989 to 2000, an amount enough to pay for a year's operations of the national government, Sen. Ralph Recto said yesterday.

The collection of the VAT has been so inefficient that the government on average loses 62.5 percent of potential taxes, he said.

"This means that for every peso of potential VAT, the government can only collect 38.5 centavos," Recto said.

The VAT evasion rate from 1989 to 1999 was 64.2 percent, according to a study made by Dr. Rosario Manasan of the Philippine Institute for Development Studies.

The finance department has claimed, however, that it had successfully brought down the leakage in the VAT collection to only 47 percent in 2000.

VAT is a tax on consumption that replaced more than 80 indirect taxes when it was first introduced in 1988. It was later expanded to cover other entities with the passage of Republic Act 7716 in 1994.

A VAT that is equivalent to 10 percent of the gross selling price or gross value of the goods or services traded is paid by every individual who engages in a trade or business, sells, exchanges, imports, leases goods and renders service.

Recto believes the high VAT leakage may be traced to the "humanly impossible" task of keeping tab of the billions of VAT transactions every year. This function is supposed to be performed by the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

But while the VAT is hard to monitor, it is easy to evade and circumvent, said Recto.

"This can be done on the part of sellers by simply under-reporting sales and exaggerating tax credits and deductions," Recto said.

He said that while buyers of goods and services do pay the 10 percent VAT, the sellers do not remit the payment to the government through its collecting agent, the BIR.

"They can invent input tax credits or bloat their tax deductions so that in the end they do not remit the entire 10 percent VAT but a greatly reduced amount," Recto said.

Compounding the loopholes was the discretion granted to BIR examiners who may either be too lax or completely lack mastery of the intricacies of the VAT system.

Recto said the VAT leakage could be reduced if abuses in the determination of input tax credits and deductions were curbed.

Malacañang got lavish praise from opposition Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta "decisive moves" against tax cheats.

Oreta, however, upbraided Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho for failing to immediately detect corrupt practices in the agencies under his watch.

Malacañang on Wednesday announced the arrest of a Land Bank of the Philippines branch manager who allegedly siphoned off P200 million in tax payments to private accounts.

It said it would soon file tax evasion charges against 300 companies for massively under-declaring their value-added tax dues ***(See story on Page 2)***.

Oreta said she hoped that Malacañang would continue to exercise strong political will in exposing and prosecuting corrupt officials, but noted that it took the administration one-and-a-half years to uncover graft and corrupt practices in the agencies directly under Camacho.

The LandBank is a government financial institution under the finance department while the BIR is a revenue-collection agency also directly under Camacho.

"Malacañang deserves the full support of the public for its efforts to curb official corruption, which is one of the primary causes of flagging revenues under the Macapagal-Arroyo administration," Oreta said.

But she said Camacho should explain why these corrupt practices thrived undetected under his watch.

She asked why Camacho's internal audit of the agencies under him had failed to uncover the irregularities.

US, Asean sign treaty vs terrorism

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Brunei–US Secretary of State Colin Powell signed a sweeping treaty Thursday with Southeast Asian nations aimed at making the region that has become a second front in the war against terrorism more responsive to future threats.

The signing capped a week of diplomacy that overcame fears from Vietnam and Indonesia that the accord could lead to the basing of US troops in Southeast Asia, where American forces have already helped the Philippines battle the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

Under the agreement, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and Washington will share information, boost police cooperation and plug holes that extremists could exploit. It would raise US technical and logistical aid to "prevent, disrupt and combat" international terrorism.

Powell told a news conference the accord would build a "more intimate relationship" with the Southeast Asian countries but would not be used as a wedge to deploy US troops, which would depend on country-to-country arrangements.

"We are not looking for bases or places to send US troops," Powell said.

On Wednesday, Asean joined the United States, China and 11 other countries - meeting under the Asean Regional Forum (ARF) security grouping–in a separate bid to block extremists from accessing the money they need to carry out terror attacks.

Their agreement targets terrorists' finances with a range of cooperative efforts from freezing assets to creating "financial intelligence units."

The forum comprises the Asean countries - Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam –along with other nations that have security interests in the region. ***AP***

Alvarez sues critics for libel

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

APPARENTLY he'd had enough.

Yesterday, Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez filed libel suits for P10 million each against Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay, Picop Resources Inc. president Teodoro Bernardino and Picop information officer Vicsmarte Ubalde for alleging he had tried to extort money from the paper firm.

The three had insinuated in news reports that Alvarez had asked for "something substantial" in an April 28 meeting with Bernardino at the Manila Hotel in exchange for a presidential warranty and the "automatic conversion" of Picop's expired Timber Licensing Agreement (TLA) to an Integrated Forest Management Agreement (IFMA).

The conversion of the TLA to an IFMA was necessary to allow the paper firm to continue logging 180,000 hectares of government land in the Caraga region, since the 1987 Constitution bans TLAs and only allows co-production agreements with logging companies through IFMAs.

"It was Bernardino who insisted on meeting with me to discuss Picop's TLA which had expired. He wanted a presidential warranty and an automatic conversion into an IFMA, which is contrary to the Constitution," Alvarez said.

In his case against Pichay, Alvarez cited the congressman's July 29 interview over radio station dzMM with anchors Rep. Ted Failon and Korina Sanchez, where the solon said: "Imagine he's (Alvarez) using the party in trying to get some, extort money from Picop, *ay hindi maganda yan* (That's not nice)."

Alvarez said that in a front-page article in the INQUIRER on July 31, Pichay was quoted as saying: "'Alvarez is a first-class extortionist. He doesn't deserve to be in the Cabinet. By forcing himself into the position, he is giving credence to Picop's accusation that he is extorting money from them. They say Alvarez is a man of steel because *binabakalan niya daw ang* (he is strong-arming) Picop." ***With Agnes E. Donato***

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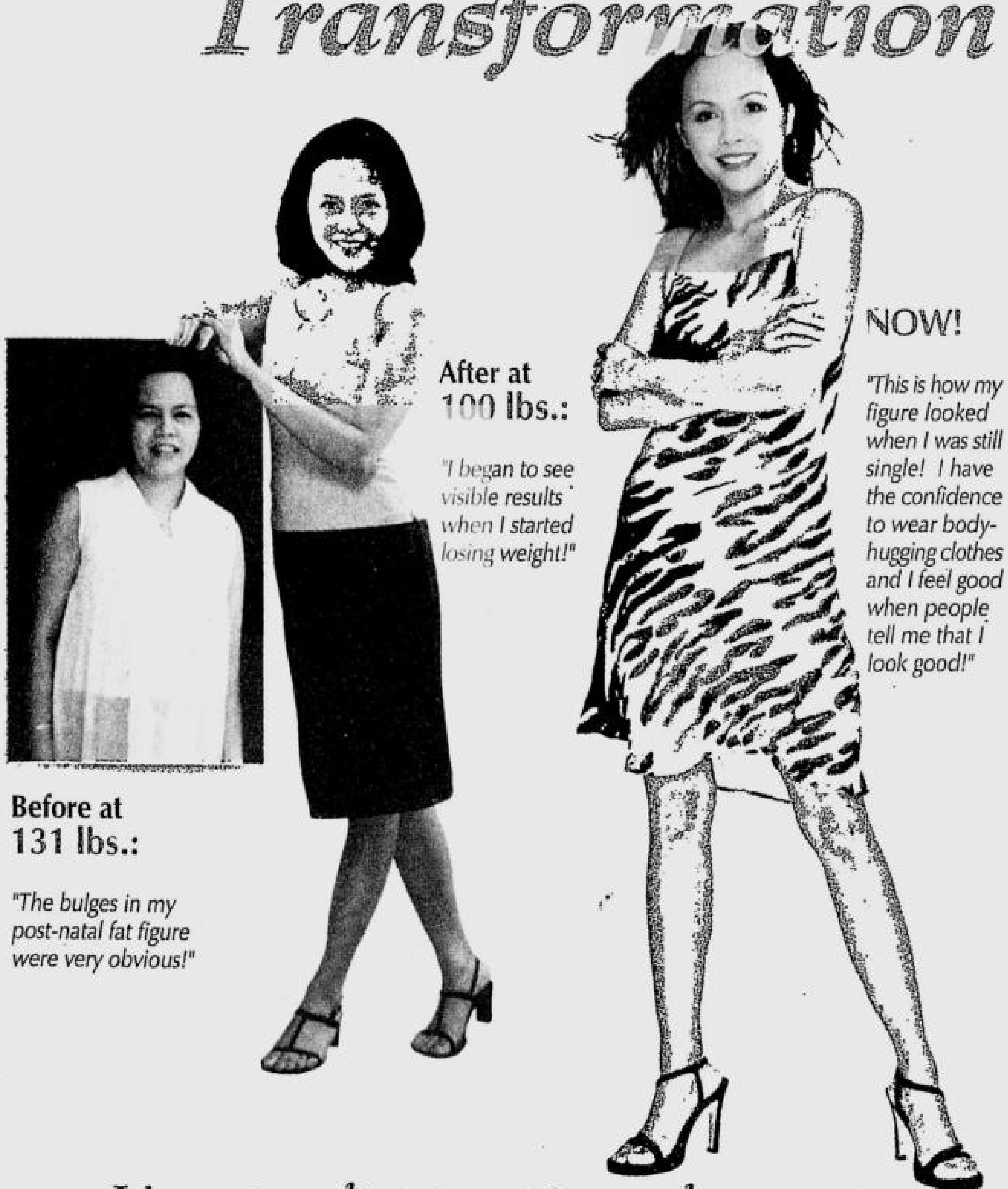

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URBAN BANK CASE

Ombudsman suspends PDIC chief

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE OMBUDSMAN has found Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp. president Norberto Nazareno guilty of "simple misconduct" and ordered him suspended for a month in relation to a case filed by Urban Bank president Teodoro Borlongan.

Nazareno, in an interview, said he would appeal the case, saying he acted above board and was not guilty of any wrongdoing in relation to the Urban Bank closure.

"I would ask the Ombudsman to review and reverse its decision because the PDIC did not commit any wrongdoing," Nazareno said.

The PDIC president said Borlongan had filed a similar case against Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura but the Ombudsman had dismissed the case.

Borlongan complained to the Ombudsman that the PDIC president and BSP governor gave no objection to a P562.5 million payment made by the National Food Authority to the Land Bank of the Philippines even after Urban Bank was closed by the authorities on April 26, 2000.

The Ombudsman ruled that in consenting to the payment, the PDIC conveyed the assets of Urban Bank and gave undue preference to the LandBank, thus violating the PDIC's duty as a receiver of the failed lender.

Nazareno pointed out that Urban Bank, even before it declared a bank holiday, had assigned and "physically delivered" to the LandBank the promissory notes of the NFA to secure its interbank loans with the state-owned bank.

As a result, the LandBank on May 4, 2000 asked the NFA to remit the payment equivalent to the promissory notes and on May 8, the food authority asked the PDIC for its approval of the payment.

On May 12, 2000, the state-owned bank insurer and Urban Bank receiver wrote the NFA and said "it had no objection to the request of the NFA to pay the amount."

"The promissory notes of the NFA were all payable to order, were payable and delivered to the LandBank even before Urban Bank declared a bank holiday," said the PDIC president.

The Ombudsman's decision puts Nazareno on the same boat as the four officials of the BSP who were also ordered suspended for a month but have also appealed their cases.

BSP officials led by Deputy Governor Alberto V. Reyes and other members of the supervision and examination team Dolores Yuvienco, Candon Guerrero and Tomas Aure have pending cases of "simple neglect of duty" before the Ombudsman.

Last month, the Ombudsman dismissed a case filed by Benjamin Tabois against members of the Monetary Board and officials of the central bank still in relation to the Urban Bank closure.

DOJ summons Strunk, Medel

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE DEPARTMENT of Justice has formally subpoenaed Roger Lawrence Strunk, Philip Medel Jr. and three others in connection with the murder of actress Nida Blanca.

The subpoenas were issued yesterday by a DOJ panel headed by Senior State Prosecutor Archimedes Manabat.

Manabat said the subpoenas would be served today.

He told reporters the reinvestigation of the Blanca murder case would proceed despite the absence of Strunk, the actress' widower and the alleged mastermind of her killing.

He said Strunk, who is in the United States, could opt to snub the preliminary investigation.

"As far as the preliminary investigation is concerned, what is important is the respondents are given a chance to submit their counter-affidavits to controvert the charges," Manabat said.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Friday, August 2, 2002
17th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: **Jer 26:1-9**
Gospel: **Mt 13:54-58**

Jesus went to his hometown and taught the people in their synagogue. They were amazed and said, "Where did he get this wisdom and these special powers? Isn't he the carpenter's son? Isn't Mary his mother and aren't James, Joseph, Simon and Judas his brothers? Aren't all his sisters living here? How did he get all this?" And so they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them, "The only place where prophets are not welcome is their hometown and in their own family." And he did not perform many miracles there because of their lack of faith.

Commentary

To believe in miracles is to see the person who is behind them, God. We all have the capacity to "see" wonders in the creation, in people and also in events, but we fail to connect them to their origin, a loving Father, God creator. Though Jesus was well known by his town mates he was not able to make miracles in Nazareth because they were not looking at the "person of God" behind him. They knew his name, his parents, his relatives, his work, they got lost in details; they had an external and superficial knowledge. When we affirm to know "too many things" about someone, we are not usually referring to a true friendship or personal relationship. Often we have eyes to see but no heart to believe, and so we prevent miracles to happen.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

REMEDIAL LAW (CIVIL PROCEDURE)—Appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over decisions of the Sandiganbayan is limited to questions of law—It is well settled that the appellate jurisdiction of the Supreme Court over decisions or final orders of the Sandiganbayan is limited to questions of law. A question of law exists when the doubt or controversy concerns the correct application of law or jurisprudence to a certain set of facts; or when the issue does not call for an examination of the probative value of the evidence presented, the truth or falsehood of facts being admitted. A question of fact exists when the doubt or difference arises as to the truth or falsehood of facts or when the query invites calibration of the whole evidence considering mainly the credibility of the witnesses, the existence and relevancy of specific surrounding circumstances as well as their relation to each other and to the whole, and the probability of the situation. The Supreme Court is not a trier of facts. It is not the Court's function to examine and weigh all over again the evidence presented in the proceedings below. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Pardo, First Division, Republic v. Sandiganbayan, G. R. No. 135789, January 31, 2002]

Digest by R. B. Vera

NEWSBRIEFS

Transition warriors?

BETWEEN 80 and 160 American Special Forces troops would remain in Basilan despite the conclusion of Balikatan 02-1.

This time, they would not merely "advise and assist," but would engage in "humanitarian" projects entailing the infusion of more US funds into the country.

Armed Forces chief of staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said this would be the "transition" program from Balikatan 02-1 to the next training exercise, which would start in October.

The Americans, Cimatu said, have identified some areas for rehabilitation, like Mahayhay in Basilan, which used to be an Abu Sayyaf lair. ***Martin P. Marfil***

GMA hails judges

THE TWO Pasay City judges who sent three kidnappers to death row and convicted a suspected Indonesian terrorist got a morale boost from no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

The President paid a surprise visit to the city's hall of justice at noon to personally congratulate Judge Eleuterio Guerrero and Judge Henrick Gingoyon.

Guerrero had sentenced Dr. Roberto Yap-Obeles, Johnny Bautista and Jerry Morales to death for the abduction of a Chinese businessman's daughter in 2000.

Gingoyon sentenced Indonesian Agus Dwikarna to at least 10 years in prison for possession of C-4 explosives at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport in March. ***Christian V. Esguerra***

This time is it for real?

STATE prosecutors have asked the Sandiganbayan to censure Jinggoy Estrada's doctor for seeking yet another transfer out of detention for Estrada for medical reasons.

Dr. Larry Hocson told the court on Wednesday Estrada needed to undergo a colonoscopy at the Makati Medical Center because of his recurring rectal bleeding.

But prosecutors noted that Hocson himself had "admitted twice in court" that the equipment needed for Estrada's examination was "portable and could be brought" to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where Jinggoy and his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, are detained on plunder charges.

They also recalled that Jinggoy was supposed to undergo a colonoscopy at the MMC in May when he stayed at the hospital for almost two months, but no such exam was conducted on him. ***Volt Contreras***

'Return bells; all is forgiven'

"Everything is forgiven, just give us back the Balangiga artifacts."

This was the message of opposition Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. to the United States as he urged Malacañang to resume negotiations to return the artifacts taken by US troops from Balangiga, Samar, during the American occupation in 1901.

Pimentel filed Senate Resolution 393 and noted that the return of the national treasures would "remove a source of friction in Filipino-American relations and fulfill a century-old wish of the people of Balangiga.

The artifacts consisted of an English-made cannon dated 1557, two church bells with emblems of the Franciscan Order dated 1863 and 1889, and a smaller church bell dated 1896. ***Rocky Nazareno***

'Bring your own machine'

METRO Manila mayors said yesterday they were willing to buy counting machines to help the Commission on Elections meet its automation requirements for the 2004 national elections.

The National Movement for Free Elections had warned the Comelec would not be able to fully automate the elections if counting machines were not procured by March next year.

Comelec chair Benjamin Abalos Sr. said the poll body would need 2,700 such machines to cover the entire country.

In a meeting with Abalos, the mayors said they would be willing to buy the counting machines to be used in their respective localities. ***Blanche S. Rivera***

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.1439 Series of 2002

Enraged John O calls Cebu media men 'gago'

CEBU CITY—Because most of the candidates he supported did not make it in the just concluded barangay elections, Sen. John Osmeña vented his ire on local media practitioners, at one point calling them "*mga gago* (stupid)."

Osmeña, a Cebuano, was enraged with the local media for allegedly failing to report alleged election irregularities that happened in Mandaue City during the July 15 synchronized barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

Osmeña alleged that there was rampant cheating in Mandaue City orchestrated by his political opponent Mayor Thadeo Ouano, a Lakas-NUCD stalwart in Cebu.

In his speech yesterday after he administered the oath of office of the newly elected barangay officials of Mandaue City who were identified with Alayon, he expressed surprise why the Cebu media remained "deaf and blind" to the alleged manipulations initiated by Ouano.

One of the members of the press later overheard the senator as referring to the Cebu media practitioners as "*mga gago man na sila* (they're all stupid)" when Cebu Rep. Nerissa Soon-Ruiz (6th District) approached him after his speech. ***Jolene Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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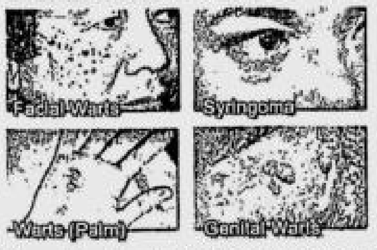

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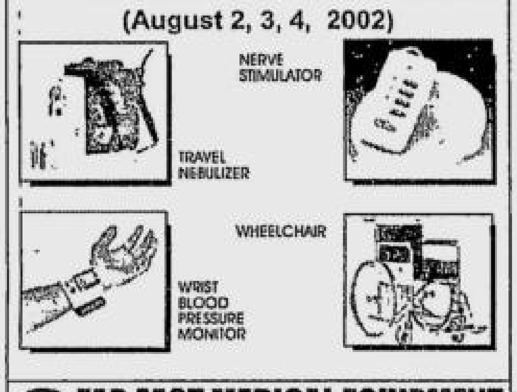

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CAP still has to cover . . .

From page A1

deposits of up to P100,000, pre-need investors have no one to turn to when their pre-need firms fold up, according to Trade Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II.

Data from the SEC showed that at least 92,000 people with pre-need plans worth P2.7 billion were left holding an empty bag with the closure of 13 pre-need companies either through the suspension of their franchises or voluntary dissolution.

A trust fund deficiency puts into question the ability of pre-need firms to provide benefits to plan holders in the future.

A protection fund for plan holders will be a "solution" to trust fund deficiencies that have long plagued the industry, according to Roxas.

At a press conference, SEC officials said yesterday that Asian Diamond Plans Inc., which has a trust fund deficiency of P13 million, would soon be out of the list of firms with deficiencies because investors would be coming in by Aug. 15.

Only one

This would leave CAP, which has a trust fund deficiency of P2.596 billion, as the only one among 45 licensed pre-need firms in the country with a trust fund deficiency.

Last week the SEC said that seven pre-need firms had trust fund deficiencies and corresponding SEC-approved funding schemes. Only CAP and "one or two" other pre-need firms had pending proposals to cover their deficiencies at the time.

SEC Chair Lilia Bautista said the corporate watchdog would suspend CAP's permit to sell education plans if the company failed to submit in 60 days documents to support its proposed funding scheme.

Bautista disclosed that CAP had yet to comply with the 25-percent investment cap on real estate but that it was very close to complying with the requirement because its real estate now accounted for 26 percent of its trust fund.

Other pre-need companies exceeded the investment cap on real estate to a greater extent than CAP, she said, although she did not name them.

Earlier, Bautista said that the SEC had required CAP to allocate 80 percent of all of its collections to its trust fund to cover its deficiency.

Consumer watchdog

At the Department of Trade and Industry, Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr. said the DTI was likely to take a more active role in regulating the marketing tactics of pre-need firms.

Cristobal said the DTI, as a consumer watchdog, wanted to ensure that pre-need firms do not mislead their potential clients with pompous ads and empty promises.

Roxas cautioned regulators against complacency in monitoring pre-need firms as 10 companies accounted for the bulk of the business.

"A collapse of one could affect the whole industry, which has 6 million outstanding plans worth P260 billion, and imperil the entire financial system," Roxas said.

Dubious practice

Roxas criticized the pre-need industry's practice of earmarking as little as 5 percent of the early payments by plan holders for trust fund deposits. He said the bulk of the payments went to commissions, marketing and administrative expenses.

"At the very start, very little of what the pre-need firms collect are invested on consumers' behalf. By loading the trust fund deposits only by the third or fourth year, pre-need firms are forced to undertake riskier investments in order to earn higher returns within a shorter period of time," Roxas said.

He said this practice was forcing pre-need firms to step up their marketing efforts to get more clients that would pay their maturing plans.

Senate hearing

In the Senate, a committee hearing on the pre-need industry is expected in line with pending legislation to establish a Pre-Need Code.

Four senators have filed separate bills transferring regulation of the pre-need industry to the Insurance Commission from the SEC.

The pre-need industry has long been neglected by the SEC until Bautista assumed her post in 2000. That year, the SEC came up with a package of rules that tightened the leash on pre-need companies, including rules on trust fund investment mix, rules on increased trust fund contributions, and rules on accounting and reportorial requirements.

'Tis Desierto's last day as Ombudsman

From page A1

the House of Representatives—including two complaints in his last year in office.

A measure of his controversy: Civil society organizations and lawyers' groups have objected strongly against his nomination to the Judicial and Bar Council as a prospective associate justice of the Supreme Court. But the survivor had simple words for his critics.

"Thank you," Desierto said, addressing his detractors. "I thank them for all the things they have done to open my eyes to the efficiencies of the office."

He stressed that critics were part of the territory of the Ombudsman. "Whoever occupies this position, if he performs his constitutional mandate, without fear or favor, he will have many detractors from those affected directly or indirectly by his decisive actions."

Today, Ombudsman officials and employees led by Overall Deputy Ombudsman Margarito Gervacio and Assistant Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro will pay tribute to Desierto in simple ceremonies at the newly inaugurated Ombudsman Building on Agham Road in Diliman, Quezon City.

No more backlog

Desierto will leave office today (he officially retires on Sunday) with a new building, an organized system to track down and monitor cases and a nationwide association of accredited corruption prevention units.

But Desierto's point of pride is his record in clearing his office of its shameful backlog of cases.

"All the cases are new now. We have dismissed all the pending cases when I assumed the Office of the Ombudsman in 1995," he said. Desierto started his public service career as a lawyer in the military's Judge Advocate General's Service.

He became a special prosecutor before being appointed by President Fidel Ramos as the Ombudsman in 1995.

Desierto said he had done his best. "I'm proud to say that of 65,000 cases we acted upon, we filed criminal charges in court in 28,000 cases, and we have removed the much-publicized backlog of cases."

Before he assumed office, he said, the Ombudsman's Office shared notoriety with the Sandiganbayan for having the biggest backlog in pending cases.

"We have accomplished our 30 percent target in this regard, so I'm confident that the next Ombudsman will complete the dreamed-of 100 percent."

He said he was also successful in bringing down graft incidence in government by 28 percent. He did this, he said, through the institution of resident Ombudsmen in most government agencies, particularly the graft-prone ones, and the founding of graft-prevention watchdogs and junior graft volunteer units, which he said had about 2 million members nationwide.

The big fish

Contrary to public perception that his office had failed to catch the proverbial big fish, Desierto said that during his watch his office has charged in court a former president, two former first ladies, a former vice president, 17 cabinet members, two ambassadors, six congressmen, 18 governors, 523 mayors and 62 military or police generals.

Desierto said his decision to indict deposed President Joseph Estrada for plunder and other crimes in April last year was the highlight of his career.

"I knew the risks involved in indicting a former head of state. But I have to do it for the sake of this country and to prove to the world that no one is above the law here," he said.

Asked to describe his term, Desierto said that it had all the ingredients of an "active pursuit of its vision, like going after high-ranking and influential officials, including conspirators in the private sector, and the consequent acts of vengeance from those affected by the performance of one's duties."

He also added that he wanted his administration to be remembered doing "one great one singular act."

"That is the introduction of the psychological approach in the fight against corruption through a massive campaign among the citizenry to adopt the mental disposition for righteousness."

After retirement, Desierto said he will enter private practice.

"I'll still be active in prosecuting corruption in government, either as a private lawyer assisting the national association of corruption-prevention units or as a public servant," he said.

"But definitely, not politics. You can't be effective in fighting corruption if you are in politics because you continuously compromise. This will render ineffective a graftbuster in government."

He said he would not spend his remaining months in office, or years in life, to become popular or to endear himself to politicians or the media. "Sometimes, the most popular persons are the most corrupt," he said.

Said Desierto: "I hope the next Ombudsman will continue to implement the two-pronged strategy against venalities in government, to wit: the aggressive investigation and prosecution of anomalies, and second, the development of a psyche of righteousness among Filipinos."

Yorac says judgments on $5-B Marcos loot out soon

From page A1

with Marcos cronies.

Four Philippine presidents have pursued civil suits against the Marcos estate, his heirs and cronies, seeking a judicial award of ownership to alleged ill-gotten assets that Yorac estimated at up to $10 billion.

Yorac said the focus of her efforts was on winning judgments on three cases including the coconut levy.

"With respect to the coco levy funds, and with respect to the monies deposited in the name of five or six Swiss foundations in Switzerland, I'm giving you a timetable between the end of the year up to middle of next year," Yorac said.

"PLDT, probably the same," she said.

The coco levy fund is managed by the United Coconut Planters Bank, sequestered by the government in the 1980s and controls a 27-percent stake in San Miguel Corp.

The other cases include a 21-percent stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) and $700 million worth of funds allegedly salted away by the Marcos family in Swiss banks during Marcos' 20-year rule.

The Swiss courts have transferred the Swiss bank funds to an escrow account in Manila to await final judicial ruling here on their rightful ownership.

Yorac estimated the three assets at "between $4 billion and $5 billion," making up the bulk of the disputed estate of Marcos, who died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

For the other civil cases against the Marcos estate, his heirs and his cronies, "we have projected a period of two years within which to complete presentation of evidence before the Sandiganbayan," she said.

Officials of the anti-graft court were unavailable for comment on Yorac's statements. *AFP*

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THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.
POSITION ON THE INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS (Independent Power Producers (IPPs)) CONTRACT REVIEW

The American Chamber of Commerce would like to express its support to the government's efforts to reform the Philippine electricity sector and bring down the cost of power in the country.

AmCham, however, feels concerned about the manner by which contractual obligations may be treated as the government pursues its review and possible re-negotiation of these obligations.

Our members, some of whom are participants in the power industry, have been included in the list of the IPPs to be re-negotiated, and have been placed in a very bad light with their reputation badly tarnished. We believe that this issue has subjected them to trial by publicity.

Some of the contracts of these IPPs were signed at the height of the power crisis from 1990 to 1993; and at a time when IPP sponsors were still reluctant to invest in a suffering power industry. The equity and project-finance package for most of these projects at that time constituted the largest ever private financing package to the Philippines. The Philippine government and these IPPs worked hard to convince several international and multilateral financial institutions to invest into these projects. We are concerned that a mishandling of the review process would adversely affect investors' confidence and the country's credit rating.

The preliminary results of the review have already affected public and market perception of these companies, some of them among the best performers in their respective markets. The initial review lacked transparency and completeness because it was not able to review operations of the IPPs nor did it seek explanations on some issues that are considered minor in nature.

With the government's public statement that the result of the review process requires another three months of "intense study", we would like to appeal that the process to carry out this review should be fair, transparent and with participation from the affected sector. May we also urge the government that in order for this review to be more effective in identifying which among these contracts are onerous, the same should be made comprehensive to include a review of technical and operational performance in addition to legal and financial.

We all need to remember that the IPPs should be treated as part of the solution rather than the problem. Their entry into the country not only helped resolved the power crisis, but also signalled to the international community a level of investment confidence in the country.

Roco is man to beat in Palace race, says survey

From page A1

was how Tujan described Roco, who ran for President in 1998. He placed third, behind Estrada and Speaker Jose de Venecia.

Tujan interpreted Ms Macapagal's No. 3 ranking nationwide as popular rejection of the policies and actions of the President.

"This rejection is reflected by the votes for Erap-who is regarded as '*kontra*' to Ms Macapagal," Tujan said.

But Tujan also said Ms Macapagal's showing did not necessarily mean a gain for the opposition, since three administration personalities landed in the Top 6 nationwide: Roco, the President, and Senate Majority Leader Loren Legarda.

Vice President Teofisto Guingona, who recently had a public falling out with the President, placed sixth in the nationwide survey, tied with movie star Fernando Poe Jr., Estrada's best friend.

Sen. Edgardo Angara, president of the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, ranked sixth in Metro Manila but failed to make a substantial showing in the nationwide ranking.

Tujan said the President's net satisfaction rating in the Ibon survey improved to 4.24 percent. He suggested that the jump in the rating happened because of events related to the anniversaries of People Power I and II and the coup rumors.

"This was also the period when Ms Macapagal started calling people communists," Tujan said. Palace officials have described Ibon as a left-wing organization.

HB&A survey

The HB&A poll was conducted in Metro Manila from July 26 to 29 and compared against the results of a June 22-25 "benchmark" survey. It showed a doubling in the President's net satisfaction rating (satisfied minus dissatisfied) from 8 in June to 19.

The number of Metro Manila residents who said they were "satisfied" ("*nasisiyahan*") with the President's performance rose from 40 percent to 48 percent. The number who expressed dissatisfaction slid from 32 percent to 29.

Ms Macapagal's net approval rating—another but different popularity measure—also doubled in the same period, from 12 to 24.

The number of respondents who "approved" ("*sumasang-ayon*") rose from 50 percent to 53 percent. Those who "disapproved" dropped from 38 to 29.

HB&A executive director Anthony L. Abaya said the President's State of the Nation Address (Sona) "may have" convinced more people to take her side. The July survey was taken a few days after the July 22 speech.

"We can only speculate that perhaps people found enough sincerity in the Sona, that people are too tired of the squabbling in the Senate and that they realized we should get our act together," Abaya told the INQUIRER.

A top government official had earlier mentioned to Inquirer editors that Abaya was part of an informal media team helping the administration.

But yesterday, Abaya denied that Malacañang had commissioned the survey. It was HB&A itself which funded the poll as a public service, he said.

"Malacañang was never our client," he said.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye, who gave reporters copies of the survey yesterday, also denied that the Palace was behind the poll.

"This was copy furnished to us, so we're just sharing this with you," he said.

Abaya said HB&A has been regularly doing market research and opinion surveys since 1998.

"We wanted to restart our public opinion surveys. It's about time to start reading the situation," he said.

Eduardo delos Angeles is HB&A chair while Jose Sandejas is president. Abaya said Jose Pardo was a founding director but resigned when he joined the Estrada Cabinet as finance secretary.

With 300 respondents aged 18 and above, both surveys had a margin of error of 5.7 percentage points, with a confidence level of 95 percent.

More hopeful

The nationwide Ibon survey findings show that while a majority of Filipinos think the economy is in poor shape, more Filipinos are hopeful the economy will improve, Tujan said.

"And compared to last year's results, more Filipinos have shifted to the belief that the economy will stay the same," Tujan said.

Some 30.28 percent of respondents said the economy "will remain the same," up from 22.27 percent last January. When asked to compare their "livelihood" (*pangkabuhayan*) more Filipinos—11.64 percent this year against 9.6 percent last year—said their livelihood has "improved."

"Sociologically, there is a higher level of hopefulness. She (Ms Macapagal) has been able to remove slightly, even if slightly, the sense of hopelessness," Tujan said.

The President's PR work was effective since "much of this is perception," he added.

Other noteworthy findings from the Ibon survey:

Some 49 percent of Filipinos oppose the extension of the Balikatan exercises, against 40 percent who favor it.

A clear majority of 57 percent, however, favored the entry of US troops in the fight against the Abu Sayyaf.

Some 55 percent said they were not in favor of changing the Constitution.

A statistical majority of 52 percent said they did not like the proposed Absentee Voting Bill.

Other findings of the HB&A survey in Metro Manila included the following:

Some 55 percent of the population was not aware of the Sona.

A statistical majority of 51 percent agreed with the appointment of Sen. Blas Ople as foreign secretary.

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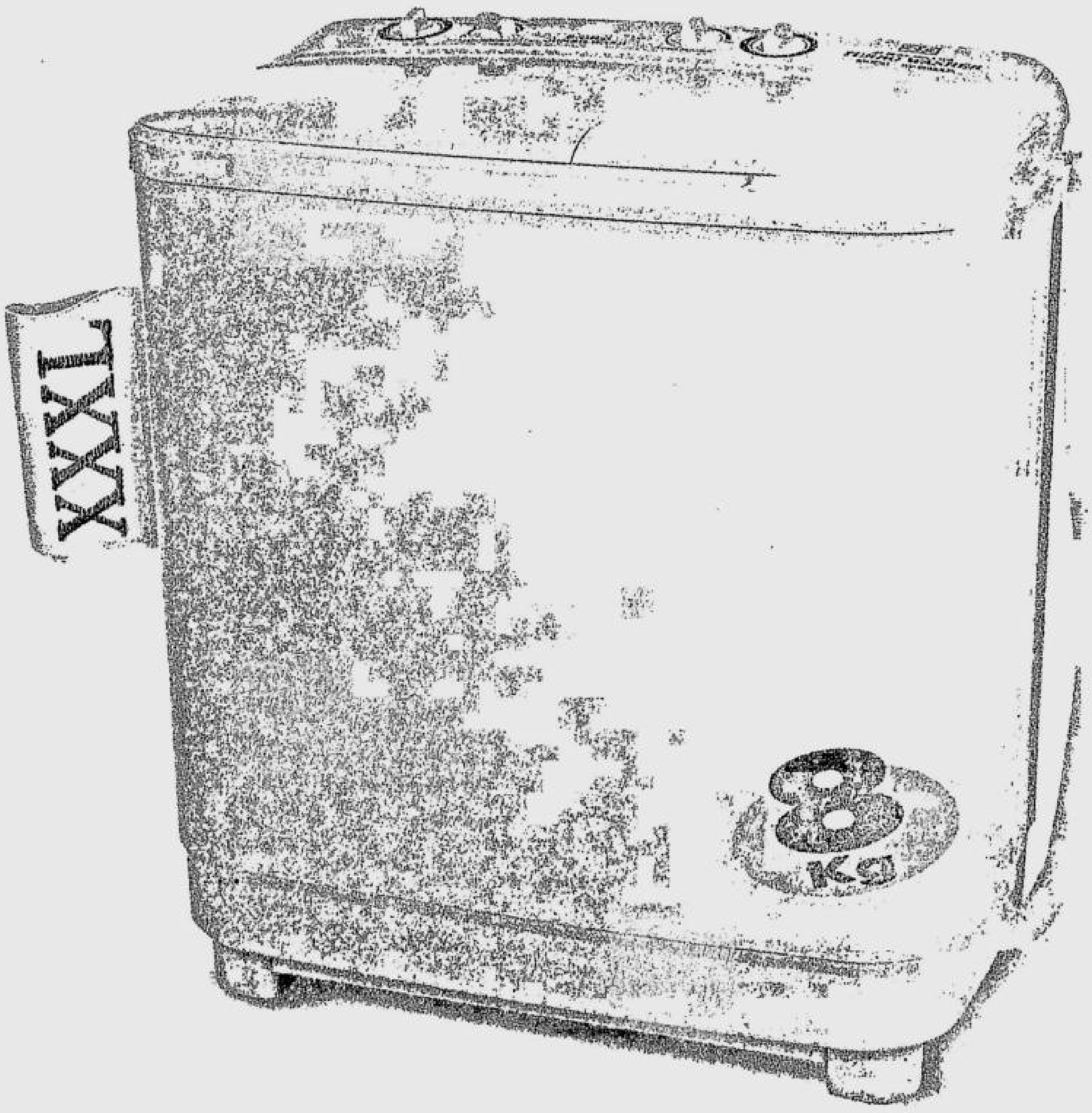

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 17 No. 235
ISSN
0116-2642

OPINION

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The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editoral Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

Publisher **Isagani Yambot**
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Long goodbye

EDITORIAL

THE BALIKATAN 02-1 joint military exercises formally ended Wednesday, but it may take some time before the American troops finally say goodbye—if ever. In fact, the key US military unit, consisting of 160 officers and men who trained Filipino soldiers in counter-terrorism, is staying put in Basilan to continue monitoring the progress of the trainees. One American military officer said they will be staying until October. And that is when an even larger force, consisting of some 8,000 US troops, is expected to arrive in Luzon and Basilan to take part in new war games.

Individual soldiers may come and go, but it is now beginning to look like the US military presence has acquired some permanence. This is in violation of the Constitution, which prohibits the stationing of foreign troops, and constitutes the clearest proof that the campaign against the Abu Sayyaf was less than the smashing success that Philippine and American officials said it was.

President Macapagal-Arroyo and US President George W. Bush have held up the Balikatan as a model of successful cooperation in the war against international terrorism. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Roy Cimatu said the joint military exercises ended the year-long hostage crisis in Basilan and broke the backbone of the Abu Sayyaf. The AFP says the strength of the Abu Sayyaf has been reduced from 1,200 men to only about 140.

It has never been explained how the military arrives at its estimates. But unless Abu Sayyaf members committed mass suicide, its membership could not have shrunk so much so fast despite the government's all-out campaign to exterminate the group. So government troops got Abu Sayyaf spokesman Abu Sabaya during a sea chase off the coast of Sibuco in Zamboanga del Norte. But while he personified the insolence and ruthlessness of the Abu Sayyaf, Sabaya was merely the group's mouthpiece, not its leader.

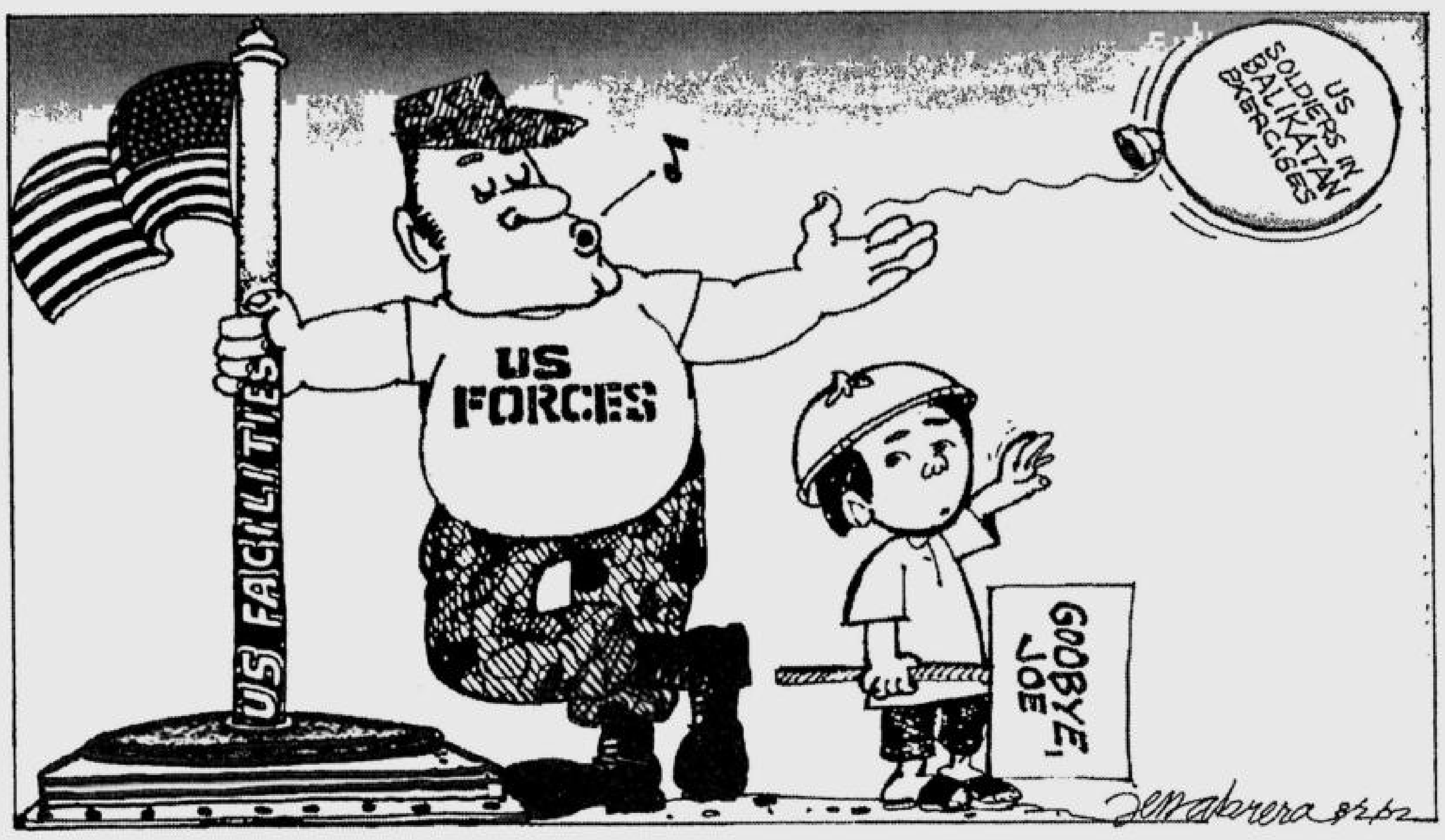
The numbers that matter actually tend to belie any official claim of victory in the campaign against the terrorist group. For instance, there are five wanted men on the US government's list of Filipino terrorists. Sabaya may be gone, but the four others, including the real leader of the bandit group, Khadaffy Janjalani, remain at large. So are Commander Robot and many of the leaders of the Abu Sayyaf team that raided the Sipadan resort in Malaysia and first earned the group international notoriety. And they have hundreds of millions of pesos from ransom payments to finance their revolution or criminal operations. So how can this particular war be considered won?

As far as the people of Basilan are concerned, this war isn't over yet. Deputy Speaker Gerry Salappudin, who represents Basilan in the House of Representatives, said the people in his province are afraid that with the departure of US troops, the Abu Sayyaf will come back to terrorize them. And they are also afraid that with the Americans gone, "the scalawags in the military will go back to their old ways."

Is the solution then to keep the US troops there, as the folk of Basilan and the administration seem to think? Not at all. Summing up what the exercises accomplished, Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster said the training greatly improved the marksmanship, leadership, special operations, intelligence, communications and survival techniques of Filipino troops. But while acknowledging that the exercises had improved their fighting skills and capabilities, Salappudin said that on their own, the Filipino soldiers could have neutralized the Abu Sayyaf. "Unfortunately, for reasons of their own, some of our soldiers are exerting only half-hearted efforts in confronting the bandit group," he noted. Had they been dedicated to their job, he added, they would not have needed US assistance.

Here Salappudin, a former rebel commander of the Moro National Liberation Front, has identified the critical factor that has doomed the government's campaign against the Abu Sayyaf. It's not lack of skills or sophisticated equipment. Our soldiers simply lack the will to fight and the determination to win. And just as bad, they don't enjoy the trust and confidence of the communities in which they operate.

Obviously those are the things US troops cannot teach and their government cannot supply. Their task is done. Now it's the job of the AFP corps of officers to turn the soldiers into real fighting men who will win the respect of the people they serve.


US SOLDIERS IN BALIKATAN EXERCISES
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GOOBYE, JOE

DTI chief misses the point

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

TRADE Secretary Mar Roxas was offended by my column of July 26 on the parallel drug importation by the government. In a long letter to the INQUIRER, (PDI, 7/31/02) Roxas called it a "cheap shot" for referring to the importation called Pharma 50 as "Porma 50."

I am afraid the secretary has missed the point of the column, which is that although parallel importation provides some cheap medicines to Filipinos, nevertheless it is but a temporary relief, a mere palliative, and does not address the root cause of expensive medicines. Parallel importation is all right but it cannot be expected to significantly alter the situation.

As the column stated, Pharma 50, to be successful, "should be able to reach a majority of Filipinos." But the current drug importation accounts for a measly 0.16 percent of the total medicines imported in 1999. Pharma 50 has reached a very small percentage of Filipinos. "Even in government hospitals, sale and distribution are severely rationed: four to eight pieces for the prescribed 14 full course of antibiotics. To have an impact, parallel drug importation should be increased to P5 billion."

For a permanent solution, we must have a self-reliant Filipino pharmaceutical industry not dominated by multinationals whose only purpose is profit. At present, an oligopoly of foreign-owned drug companies control drug manufacturing while distribution is a near-monopoly of Mercury Drug which, in turn, is subject to pressure by the manufacturing oligopoly. Parallel importation does provide some cheap medicines, but (at the same time) it competes and virtually kills whatever is left of the Filipino drug industry.

Just one example, Bactrim imported from India (generic name: co-trimoxazole) was advertised by the Department of Health at P5.10 per unit but a local drug manufacturer sells the generic co-trimoxazole at only P5 per. Other manufacturers say they can even offer it at a much lower cost.

The Health Alliance for Democracy has proposed that instead of parallel importation of manufactured medicines, we should import the raw materials from India and let the local drug manufacturers produce them. India can sell the raw materials cheaper because it doesn't have to pay royalty to the original developers as it is not a signatory to the world patent agreement on drugs.

In fact, Roxas said in his letter that he was "one of those from the developing countries who asserted (at the World Trade Organization) the right of sovereign states to override patents and have open access to cheaper drugs." He said the Philippines is among the "member countries that signed a Ministerial Declaration of Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) to allow for the mandatory licensing of drugs to address public health issues."

Medicines are expensive because successive Philippine governments, said the Health Alliance, "have never been interested to develop a truly independent and people-oriented health care policy, including the development of a Filipino drug industry. Ownership and manufacture of drugs are controlled by transnational oligopolies entrenching import-dependence, 'their brand' mentality and sheer commodification of a vital health and life support. Distribution is likewise cornered by a handful of Filipino-Chinese businessmen. Access to medicine has always been under the mercy of market economics dominated by foreign interests, never in the interest of the Filipino."

For parallel importation to be successful, the Alliance said:

1. Government allocation for importation should be increased to at least P5 billion to reach a majority of Filipinos and make a dent in the drug market competition.

2. Parallel imports should not be branded but generic, in keeping with the Generic Law of 1988. This would help in prompting Filipinos to use generic medicines which are cheap and effective.

3. Branded parallel imports should be those that do not have cheaper and equally effective generic equivalents that are already locally produced. They should also be medicines not yet manufactured in the Philippines or hard to access. To name a few, these include insulin, anti-cancer drugs, HIV/AIDS medicines and vaccines. These, incidentally, are some of the most expensive because of strict patent regulations. We can learn from the South Africans who lobbied for parallel drugs importation and compulsory licensing of these sets of medicine to put up competition with the existing high-priced medicines.

4. Treatment and care of Filipinos are not anchored only on the presence of cheap medicine. What we need is a stronger and more accessible public health care system: health education, facilities, personnel—all of which are utterly lacking especially in the rural areas. Selling antibiotics liberally over the counter and, worse, in Gloria Labandera's rolling stores, without valid prescriptions, the benefit of advise or presence of health professionals or trained community health workers, will only invite massive irrational drug use leading to more antibiotic resistance.

Why has India, though a poor country, been able to make its drug costs so low when they are produced by the same transnational companies operating in the Philippines? Because the Indian government has the political will to force its foreign investors not to punish its citizens with prohibitive prices. The Philippines should learn from the experiences of India and South Africa.

The Macapagal administration should take steps, the Alliance said, toward developing a drug industry that is self-reliant and not dependent on the vagaries of the market economy or the control of transnational companies.

* * *

KAPIHAN Notes: Next Monday's guests at the Kapihan sa Manila (Hotel) are PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane and the new police chiefs who replaced the seven *jueteng*-friendly superintendents.

To the max

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

FRANKLY, I cannot understand this idea of suspending maximum tolerance. That was the policy President Macapagal-Arroyo put forward shortly after her State of the Nation Address, which said more about the state of the nation than the one contained in her speech. She was miffed by the horde that gathered outside the gates of the Batasan, chanting insults and baiting the cops into rough stuff. From then, she said, no more being nice guy, no more maximum tolerance.

That is what PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane means to enforce today. The protesters go out of line, he says, he will arrest them. Indeed, the protesters rally without permit, he says, he will arrest them. What if a big crowd does that? Then, he says, "we'll just have to build a bigger detention center."

Well, I know one person who did so 30 years ago this September, turning the country into one whole detention center. His name was Ferdinand Marcos. He also tried to build a strong republic.

But the notion of suspending maximum tolerance in fact reflects a complete misunderstanding of the concept of maximum tolerance. For some reason, the President and his bodyguards seem to think maximum tolerance means tolerating hooliganism or plain criminality. It is not. Protesters hurl rocks or Molotov cocktails at a phalanx of cops, the cops have a right to go after them and haul them in. That is maximum tolerance, tolerating dissent up to the point where it oversteps law, or reason. Though even here, with several recent rallies producing saboteurs in plainclothes, the authorities would do well to exercise more care before they act.

Maximum tolerance does mean tolerating vituperation and insult, or the verbal abuse that accompanies those volatile gatherings. Cops are human too, true, but they are not paid to save face. They are paid to save the faces of those who offer such provocations. Maximum tolerance does mean tolerating a degree of the overstepping of bounds by protesters where it does not pose any grave threat to life and property. To his eternal credit, and whatever his involvement in *jueteng* is, Gen. Edgardo Aglipay was very good at it. He was reasonable, even pleasant, when talking to the protest leaders during Erap's time, and that helped greatly to diffuse tension. I don't recall any violent clashes then, and that did not owe entirely, or even in great part, to the discipline the protesters exercised.

The danger with an articulated policy of no more maximum tolerance is that it openly invites mayhem. It shortens the already very short fuse of cops in this angry city, giving them a license to respond to provocation in a non-calibrated way. In this country, where words have a way of being misconstrued, deliberately or not, "no more maximum tolerance" easily translates as "minimum tolerance." That means cops may be free to charge protesters at the slightest provocation. That means they may be free to bash the heads of their tormentors with truncheons to release their pent-up emotions.

That's what rallies unruliness, not unruly rallies.

But far more than this, there is the even more humongous problem of where GMA's moral authority to suspend maximum tolerance comes from. This is so particularly where that means disallowing rallies without permits, and arresting those who participate in them. If only for that, I myself am tempted, gout and all, to march with a group that doesn't have one, to protest the return of American military presence and strong-arm tactics, to this country. The President may have forgotten it already, but if it were not for the rallies a year and a half ago, many of them held without permits, in defiance of Erap's own threats for people not to try his patience—*"huwag n'yo kong subukan,"* he said—she would not be President now.

Well, it's not very hard to forget when you were never part of it. Come to think of it, I never saw GMA in any one of those rallies, raising a fist of defiance at tyranny. She was always in the company of Cardinal Sin and Cory, praying in chapels, out of the heat of the sun and Erap's line of fire, for God to give her what she craved. Well, as they say, be careful what you wish for, you might just get it. She did.

But at the very least, it is a sign of ungratefulness that she should now wish to crush dissent in this way. Erap at least could always claim he had the people behind him—he got to Malacañang through an overwhelming electoral mandate—if he had decided to throw the full might of his storm-troopers at his tormentors. It is to his eternal credit too, whatever his own involvement in *jueteng* is, that he did not. GMA may not claim the same thing. She was the beneficiary of that "unruliness," when it was directed at Erap. It was the protesters' defiance of Erap despite his threats—indeed it was their tugging at the limits of maximum tolerance—that made her President.

Like the other strong exponent of a strong republic, GMA clearly misses the point of what makes a republic strong. What makes a republic strong is not a strong President, or an iron-fisted one. It is a strong people, or a freedom-loving one. What makes a republic strong is not protecting the President from her people. It is protecting the people from their President. GMA above all should steer clear of tinkering with the policy of maximum tolerance. She exists on the sufferance of the people. We can always say we have been patient with her for very long, despite her preferring to run for President rather than run the country, despite her rewarding the enemies of Edsa II and punishing its friends, despite her resurrection of the very thing "people power" has always opposed, which is the specter of dictatorship.

What if we decided to stop tolerating her to the max?

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

The final word on Balikatan 02-1

THE BALIKATAN 02-1 exercises ended on Wednesday after six months of RP-US military collaboration exercises focused on the campaign to unhinge the Abu Sayyaf as the Filipino link of the al-Qaida global terrorist network.

Philippine and US authorities claim Balikatan 02-1 was a "success," but the term requires qualification. From a narrowly military point of view, it was a success. Viewed from a larger strategic perspective, the six-month exercises were a defining event in the renewal of close RP-US relations and in domestic politics.

It would be an affront to evidence if we did not recognize that the exercises succeeded in turning the tide against the Abu Sayyaf terrorism. They were mainly responsible for putting the Abu Sayyaf on the run, and in killing Abu Sabaya, the high-profile symbol of the outlaw gang.

The focus of Balikatan 02-1 was Basilan, the heartland of the Abu Sayyaf, although Filipino troops expanded the theater to Zamboanga del Norte where Sabaya's group retreated and where the troops finally caught up with him in his attempt to escape by sea. While the Abu Sayyaf has not been completely eradicated, the campaign that sprang from the exercises enabled the Philippine army to regain the initiative and put an end to a humiliating chapter in which the Abu Sayyaf mocked the authority of the republic and executed outrageous hostage-taking activities with impunity. There cannot be a more humiliating picture of a weak State than the Abu Sayyaf's insolence.

From a larger perspective, Balikatan 02-1 was a defining event because, first, it was a test of President Macapagal-Arroyo's policy of uncritical collaboration with the US-led war on terrorism; and, secondly, it proved to be the catalyst of a Cabinet shake-up in the Department of Foreign Affairs, provoked by fundamental policy differences between the President and Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr., then foreign secretary.

The President can now say Balikatan vindicated her policy and showed concrete results in "neutralizing" the Abu Sayyaf. On a triumphalist note, the President said Balikatan has proved to be correct and acceptable to the people, "so it's the ideal policy."

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

The acceptability of deployment of US forces in Basilan seems to be confirmed by the Makati Business Club Executive Outlook Survey of July 2002.

The survey shows that out of 33 government agencies rated, 14 received positive net scores (meaning, the percentage of satisfied respondents was higher than dissatisfied).

Two agencies recorded more than 20 percent increases in net scores between the January and July surveys. These were the Armed Forces of the Philippines (34 percent) and the Department of National Defense (33 percent).

The impressionist evidence is that the local communities, especially those with Muslim majorities in the operations zone, welcomed the presence of US troops.

It would be dishonest if we did not acknowledge that Balikatan enhanced the fighting skills and capabilities of the Philippine military in fighting domestic rebellions. It cannot be denied that the introduction of American advanced hi-tech military technology, and the close field collaboration between the US and Filipino troops in the Basilan-Zamboanga del Norte campaign, improved the fighting proficiency of Filipino troops, as well as their intelligence-gathering, resulting in tracking down Sabaya.

The improvement of the Filipino troops' performance (at the end of the trail, the American troops were not around), regained for the Philippine army confidence in itself and its self-esteem.

Leftists and nationalists have argued that the involvement of the US troops in the Abu Sayyaf campaign and in improving the fighting capability of Filipino soldiers is evidence of deepening Filipino dependence on the United States. Superficially, it appears to be true. But judged from the outcome, the enhanced fighting capability of the Filipino soldiers has strengthened the hands of the republic in asserting its authority across the land, as well as reducing its future dependence on foreign aid to solve domestic concerns.

In the past, our dependence on foreign (US) aid for economic rehabilitation was deepened by the squandering of aid we received, through corruption and leakage. Aid did not help us stand on our feet to rebuild our war-battered economy in the post-war years.

There was, of course, the civic action phase of the Basilan operations in the form of deployment of engineering troops for building roads and infrastructure. During the anti-Huk campaign of the Magsaysay administration, civic action was a component in the war to "win the hearts and minds" of the people.

In Basilan, engineering troops built roads within weeks. An air strip consisting of more than one kilometer was rebuilt in four weeks. In Philippine public works standards, it takes a year to repair 100 meters of roads which dissolve from the first rains because of leakage from kickbacks. The US troops showed us how dishonest we are in using taxpayers money on public works.

The Balikatan project marked a turning point for the President. It precipitated her break with the inconvenient nationalist outlook of Guingona when she sacked him from the Cabinet. The implication of Guingona's dismissal is that it signaled moves to consolidate her control of foreign policy.

This consolidation came in the face of a new phase of expansion of RP-US security relations in the form of the Mutual Logistics Support Agreement (MLSA) which is on deck for approval by the administration. But the MLSA is an entirely different kettle of fish from Balikatan.

The hotel GM and his 'chin-chin'

SEXUAL harassment is a common enough hazard when one's job involves giving a massage to clients. But even when a woman is employed as a therapist in the health club of a five-star hotel, a workplace more "decent" than most, she must still watch out for sleazy customers and learn how to extricate herself from sticky situations.

But what if the scumbag happens to be—even if only technically—her boss? What protection does the employee enjoy then?

Late in the evening of June 25, "R," a therapist with the Clark Hatch Fitness Center located at the Dusit Hotel Nikko, was told that the hotel's general manager, Chiyuki Fujimoto, had requested for a massage and that she was to proceed to Room 1160. Upon entering the room, "R" found Fujimoto sitting on a sofa in the receiving room. The GM asked her if she could massage him even while he was seated as he was still watching a World Cup match on the TV. "R" proceeded to massage Fujimoto's neck, noticing, she said in her sworn statement, that the man was drunk and reeking of alcohol. After about 20 minutes, the GM stood up, grabbed "R's" hand and told her to get a P500 bill on a shelf. He then pulled "R" by the arm toward the bedroom, where he promised to give her "more money" if she continued to massage him. On reaching the bed, Fujimoto fell sideways on it, so that "R" began massaging his arms while kneeling beside him. As "R" made a move toward his legs, Fujimoto suddenly yanked her arm, making her fall and sit on his chest. At this, Fujimoto began to stroke her thighs, and when "R" struggled to get up, he gripped her arms tighter. "I begged him, 'Sir, you are a high-ranking officer of this hotel, you should not do this,'" "R" told an investigating officer. When Fujimoto continued to hold on, "R" struggled harder and managed to push herself off him. She then stood at the edge of the bed and massaged his legs, but suddenly Fujimoto muttered: "How about this?" pointing to his groin. When "R" inquired "What, sir?" the manager grabbed her hand and tried to place it on his groin, insisting "I want to put my chin-chin in you."

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

* * *

WHEN "R" asked Fujimoto what he meant, he repeated: "I want to put my chin-chin in you," pointing to his penis and to her groin. At this, "R" stood up and moved away, prompting the manager to rise and remove his jogging pants, but out of drunkenness, he began to throw up and would have hit his head on the door edge had not "R" caught him.

"R" then helped Fujimoto back to bed, and, she said in her statement, would have left the room and gone back to the fitness center if she hadn't checked her watch and found that she had eight more minutes left in her shift. So she waited and sat on the sofa in the receiving room, and even took pains to wipe Fujimoto's face with a towel and fixed him a cup of coffee. But by then, "R" noticed that the manager had fallen asleep.

"R" then called her supervisor at Clark Hatch and told her she wanted to leave Fujimoto's room at once, adding that the manager had "done something" to her but she couldn't give any details over the phone. When she finally reached the fitness center, "R" poured out the details of the sordid incident to her supervisor and then reported again to the assistant manager. Clark Hatch's country manager Bernie Durkins also learned of the incident. They all agreed to let "R" file an incident report and then report to the authorities.

* * *

LAST July 19, "R" filed charges of sexual harassment and attempted rape at the Makati Prosecutors Office against Fujimoto and the management of the hotel. Makalaya (Manggagawang Kababaihang Mithi ay Paglaya), a national women workers' organization, is providing legal and moral assistance to her.

In a related move, "R" wrote Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo last July 24 to request the issuance of a hold departure order against Fujimoto. "We have received information from reliable sources that Mr. Fujimoto is going to leave the country to evade prosecution," said "R," requesting further that Fujimoto be considered an undesirable alien and that he be arrested, detained and kept in the country until the investigation and trial are over and done with.

At this point, "R" is in a bind, indeed. While the charges are pending and Fujimoto remains as general manager of the hotel, her continued employment at the Clark Hatch Fitness Center there would seem to be untenable. Given Fujimoto's stature and status as a foreigner, her legal options seem limited indeed.

* * *

JUST because a woman's line of work involves giving massages to clients who are invariably naked beneath the sheets in the privacy of a stall or hotel room doesn't mean she's open game for predators and maniacs. And even if the occupation of "masseuse" has, in the public mind, gained a rather racy reputation, not all of them are sex workers by any other name. And even then, even commercial sex workers can be raped and sexually harassed.

But the reality is that "R," in pursuing her case, must contend with public opinion and perception of her and her line of work, as much as the facts. It will also be her word against Fujimoto's, although in my opinion, her telling superiors about the incident right after she left Fujimoto's room would seem to work in her favor.

"R" is fortunate in that she has Makalaya and her lawyers providing her with not just legal assistance, but more important, moral support and organized advocacy on her behalf. This is one case that bears watching.

* * *

Comments to rjdavid@inquirer.com.ph

Tolenino-Edades: Exchange on Modern Art

FOR THE PAST two weeks I have been looking at a lot of Philippine Modern Art—mostly paintings and a few sculptures—to relax my eyes and head from studying too much text in books and manuscripts. As the cliché goes, a picture is worth more than a thousand words and by looking at these I thought I could fill two or three columns simply by looking, describing and expressing whatever meanings I got from the pictures. In time I had to remind myself that I am a historian, not an art critic. In an effort to understand the historical background of Philippine Modern Art, I had to go beyond the pictures, back to the Lopez Museum to dig up the 1948 Sunday Times Magazine and This Week magazine. These postwar magazines carried the famous exchange on Modern Art between Victorio C. Edades and Guillermo Tolentino.

Edades was for Modern Art while Tolentino argued for what has been called either Academic, Classical, or Conservative Art. Edades began with an article, "Modern A[illegible] in the [illegible] 18, 1948 issue of the Sunday Times Magazine to which Tolentino replied with an article, "Modern Art?" in August 1948. Tolentino used a question and answer form in his reply quoting an imaginary (or was it real?) conversation he had with students from the School of Fine Arts of the University of the Philippines. Excerpts follow:

Students (S): "Professor...will you give us your opinion on modern art?"

Tolentino (T): "Willingly, I am glad that you are interested in things modern."

S: "Why, professor, do you like modern art too?"

T: "Yes I do, but I also like the ancient and primitive art."

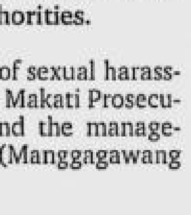
S: "We do not understand. You are conservative, how come that you like this modern art?"

T: "Not so fast. Anything done in this atomic age is modern."

Of course the discussion drifted to the controversial Art Association of the Philippines exhibition at the National Museum. When asked what he thought of modern paintings Tolentino replied, "Oh, I see. I do not like those distorted paintings and I am of the opinion that they should not be shown to children or women on the family way. There is no beauty in those paintings at all." But Tolentino said he liked modern architecture, leading the students to ask him about modern poetry. His famous words were: "Just as unruly as modern painting and modern sculpture...Here is the skeleton or framework of all the Fine Arts: Artistic anatomy, pictorial perspective, d[illegible]g, harmony of tones and colors, balance, grace, rhythm, meter, rhyme and the soul of the composition. Without these the products cannot be classified as Fine Arts but Abstract, Bizarre and Insane Arts."

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo



For some reason the Sunday Times ended the exchange with Tolentino seemingly having the proverbial last word. Edades thus moved to This Week and in September 1948 published a three-part series as a reply to Tolentino. These articles were: "Distortion in Art," "Liberating Ourselves from Academism," and "Towards Virility in Art." Edades then quoted a letter from Tolentino:

"My dear Professor Edades: Being of the old school, I naturally detest modernists and their art...They paint in crazy lines and produce work that belongs to the category of freaks...I am only too sorry for the public because I shall not answer any article you might waste your time on." [Tolentino in November took up his pen and replied with the article "Distortion in Art"]

Then Edades gave his reply:

"Dear Professor Tolentino: I know you don't want to carry on with our discussion on Modern Art. The main reason I insist on having a friendly discussion on the subject with you is my desire to show you that your idea of Modern Art is prejudiced; and your prejudice is unfounded to say the least. We owe it therefore, to our students that we teach them the truth about art and its relation to life itself. As educators, we should place the students' welfare above personal friendship. This being so, we can't but hurt the feeling of some of our friends who happen to obstruct students' progress either unconsciously or consciously."

Tolentino: "Yes, I do like Modern Art, but also the ancient and primitive art...I do not like the distorted ones."

Edades: "Twelve years ago, Mr. Tolentino did not like any piece of Modern Art. Today he realizes his mistake and begins to admire all Modern Art except that which has distortion in it. This is an encouraging sign, and if Mr. Tolentino will study carefully the reasons why some artists have introduced distortion in their works from the most primitive times to our own era, then his efforts will pay a high dividend—the ability to appreciate many masterpieces in which distortion occurs..."

T: "Other works of art that do not possess the quality to please the onlookers are just the opposite—they are anti-aesthetic.

E: "You do not need an artist to please the onlookers. Clever portrait painters who flatter the sitters can do that. For sheer entertainment Walt Disney's caricatures are guaranteed to please. He is the man you want."

Reading the 1948 exchange in 2002 should make us wonder—if a painting was "modern" in 1948, isn't it an antique in 2002? Shouldn't we grow from Tolentino and Edades and stop calling non-figurative art "modern"?

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

Lessons from kids

A FRIEND of mine has a term for people like me who occasionally cross oceans to lend a hand to daughters or sons abroad needing help. She refers to us, with tongue in cheek, as "overseas Filipino workers." All right, so now I am again an OFW at the home of my daughter Terry and her family in Pleasanton, California.

Instead of dollars, however, I "amass" memories which to me are more precious than all the deposits in Alan Greenspan's Federal Reserve. Not only that. Being with three growing grandsons is a total learning experience.

HIGH BLOOD

Naty Lapuz-Templo

WE'D also like to know the concerns of the sixtysomething and above, what makes their blood pressure rise or makes them sit back, content that all's well with their world and with themselves. —Ed.

From the time of each of their births, through their baptisms, and on their summer vacations, Christmas holidays, and lately First Communions and piano recitals, I would pop into their lives to share milestones. This gives me the opportunity to cook for them, wash their clothes, tidy up their rooms and putter around their garden to coax a handful of roses, cactus plants and daisies to shoot up. I do not expect any appreciation for these chores, but when I hear their tiny voices declare, "This is the best *adobo* we have had in a long time, Grandma." or "Oh, thank you, Grandma, for these great tasting pancakes" (as though I turned out culinary masterpieces better than Nora Daza or Julia Child), it is like hitting the jackpot in a Las Vegas casino. And I know that they mean it because kids do not fake their feelings, whether of pleasure, displeasure, hostility or anger.

Knowing how much they like chocolate milk, I sometimes bring it out of the fridge and place it on the breakfast table even on school days. I only realize my mistake when I hear them censure me in a chorus, "No, not that today. We're not allowed to take chocolate on school days, Grandma!" Indeed, Terry had told me much earlier that the school discourages chocolatey food because it tends to make kids "hyper."

My grandsons do not have to be told to put away the dirty dishes after eating. One by one they march—or dash or race one another—to the kitchen to deposit their utensils in the sink with a crash, a bang, a clang and a clink, amid their shrieks and giggles. Before they go upstairs to get ready for school, however, they have time to simulate the Jedi knights fighting with light sabers, with the use of plastic sticks or paper towel rolls, or rolled paper. Have you ever seen a three-cornered match? No amount of screaming from an adult would break their concentration, but when one gets hit ("accidentally" they are quick to say), the fighting stops momentarily. The one responsible for the "accident" is also quick to ask his victim, "Are you all right?" Then quietly they follow their Mommy's stern order to "go brush your teeth now!"

Cooking breakfast

Speaking of cooking, 9-year-old Kevin likes to take over the kitchen on Saturday mornings. He bakes cinnamon rolls or prepares pancakes with chocolate chips for breakfast—well, with a bit of help from me. It is also his chance to act out his big brother role toward Jonathan, 8 and Ryan, 5, who are waiting for their share with noisy impatience: "Just sit in your chairs and I will give you two pieces each, okay?" "Do you want me to pour the milk for you, Ryan?" "Close your mouth when you chew." "Take your elbows off the table, Jonathan!"

And little Ryan has his usual reminder, "Let's say grace!" so the three boys suspend their bickering, hurriedly make the Sign of the Cross (sometimes with their left hands, since Kevin and Ryan are southpaws and Jonathan tends to copy them) and intone "Bless us oh Lord..."

My bonding with them does not begin and end at mealtime. Folding the laundry is a chore we sometimes do together. That way they can identify what is theirs and it becomes easier to sort the clothes. It is not unusual on such occasions for Jonathan to ask, "What do you do in the Philippines, Grandma?" Once when Terry heard a similar question, she promptly informed the boys, "Oh, she does not do any housework there. She is the boss, you know; she just tells the maids what to do." (I cannot tell whether that earned greater respect for me, but once in a while they ask me about the home country.)

Although all three boys have visited their parents' homeland when they were younger, it is Kevin who seems to remember the place. In school he made a folder titled "All About Me," which required him to describe himself, his family, his pets, his toys, what makes him happy, etc. Under the label, "picture of something my family enjoys doing together," he drew some trees and land and called it "Philippines." Another page under the heading "What if..." showed his concerns. To complete the phrase, "If I can change one thing, it would be..." he wrote: "Peace in the Philippines, because I hear that there are still wars there." When I asked him where he got this idea, he said he heard on the radio that some Filipinos were being kidnapped, and the President wanted them released. He then asked if there is a war there. I told him no, but that some bad people kidnap others for money. He grew thoughtful and said, "Tsk, tsk."

Reading

Happily the boys share my passion for reading. Some evenings while I read the San Francisco Chronicle, they each have their noses buried in books (some are bought at book fairs and stores, others borrowed from the public library). At his tender age, Ryan's interest has passed from Winnie the Pooh and Blue's Clues to dinosaurs, planets, functions of the different parts of the body, and it is still expanding. From him I am learning about triceratops, iguanodon, tyrannosaurus and other tongue-twisting prehistoric animals.

If I may make a fearless forecast, Kevin and Jonathan may someday become writers. Both have authored short "books" on environment and natural science, which were proudly displayed in their respective classrooms at the Walnut Grove elementary school recently. While Jonathan writes about his personal cub scout experiences, Kevin likes to create characters and describe thrilling and dramatic situations during disasters such as volcanic eruptions and earthquakes. Once he brought home a copy of their school paper, the Groovy News, where we found out that he had written an item on the history of Pleasanton.

One weekend, Kevin demonstrated to us (his Mom, Dad, two brothers, and me) his familiarity with Pleasanton's historic spots. We drove downtown and he led us on a walking tour of those places. (His third grade class had recently made the same trip with their teacher.)

During the tour, Kevin showed us too h[illegible] handle noisy and boisterous kids. He said with amazing authority, "Here are the rules: I'll be up front and you follow me. I'll do the talking, so be quiet and listen. If you want to say or ask something, raise your right hand. Get it?" Raising my right hand, I asked if that included the grown-ups. He said yes. We ended the tour at an ice cream store where we treated ourselves to refreshing cones of ice cream.

Well, the boys are on summer break this time, but on weekdays they go to the Extended Day Child Care (an adjunct of their school), where they learn how to swim and are brought to spots of interest in the Pleasanton area. At the end of the day, after greeting me with "How was your day, Grandma?" they tell me of their experiences at the pool, the museum, the zoo, the fair, or wherever else their care-givers brought them. Being with kids is a never-ending learning process.

Naty Lapuz-Templo is in her 60s. Being a government retiree, she makes time to look after her three precocious grandsons in the United States now and then. It gives her an excuse to travel, too.

Parsons' actions legally defensible

LETTERS

I WRITE to express my unsolicited comment on the case of Sonny Parsons. It seems that over and above the cloud of confusion and the conflicting opinions being thrown on the matter, the legal situation seems to have been distorted to the extent that a possible cases for double homicide and frustrated homicide are being raised against Parsons.

In our opinion, the application of the doctrine on self defense is not even the doctrine to be applied here. There are three doctrines in our legal system that should be applicable in this case.

The first is the doctrine of hot pursuit, the second is the doctrine of citizen's arrest, and the third is the doctrine of in flagrante delicto. To cut a long story short, the law says that any officer of the law who witnesses the commission of a crime in flagrante delicto is duty-bound to arrest the criminal. Where there is no police or any officer around, the law allows the arrest to be done by a citizen, under the doctrine of citizen's arrest. If the criminal tries to escape, under the doctrine of hot pursuit, the arresting citizen is duty-bound to pursue the criminal and use reasonable force to subdue him and bring him to justice. As a matter of fact, the formalities of arrest are set aside in a case where the criminal is pursued immediately after the crime, or flees into, or forcibly resists.

Parsons, without necessarily being conversant with the law, has simply done the instinctive reaction of trying to bring criminals to justice. Add to this the fact that Parsons is not an ordinary citizen. He is a former councilor of the city where the crime was committed in flagrante delicto, meaning in his presence. As a former councilor of the city he had a higher degree of duty than that of the ordinary citizen to make that pursuit and bring those criminals to justice. Considering that there were five fully armed criminals, and Parsons only by himself and his lone firearm, the reasonableness need not even be expounded.

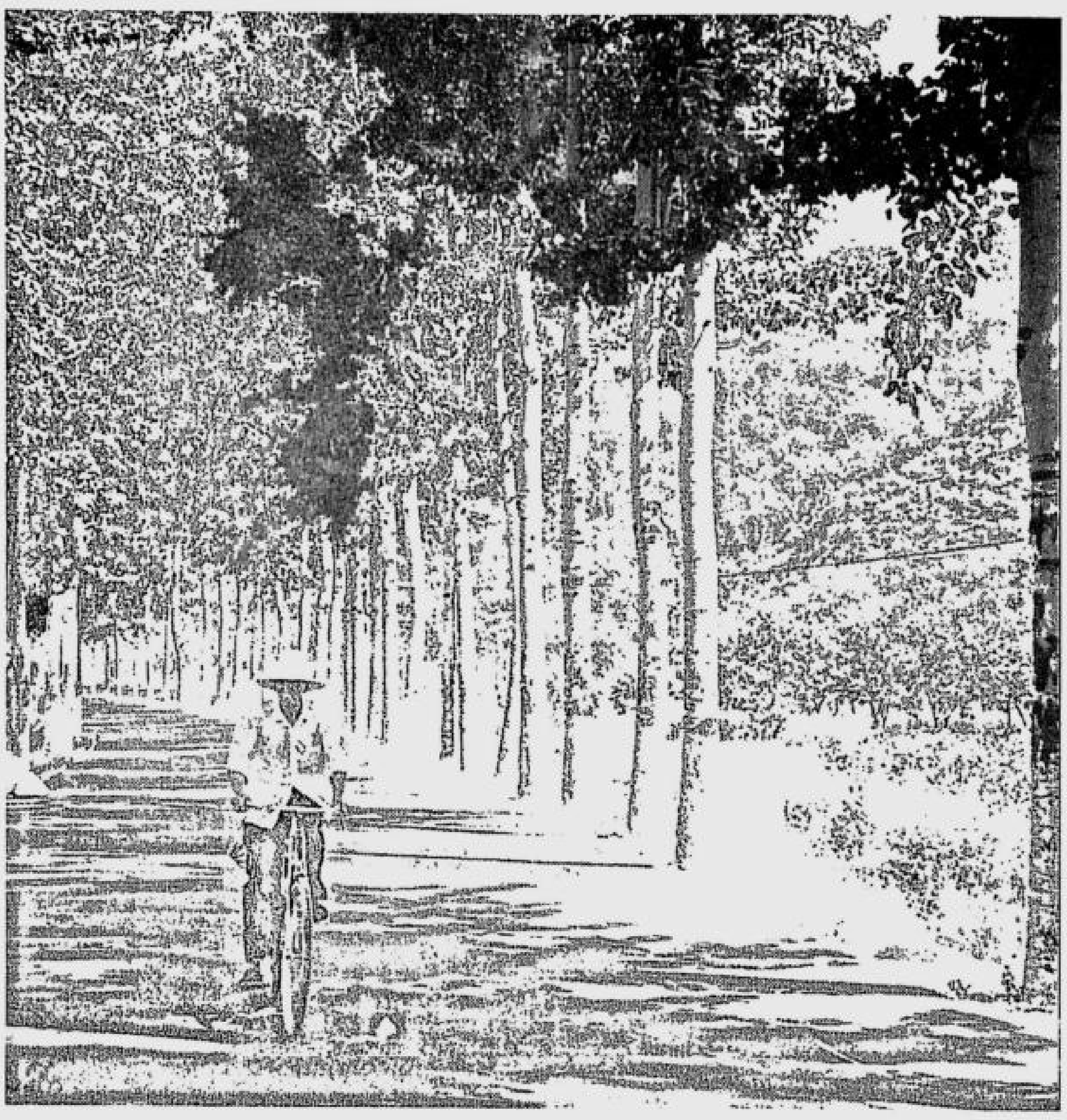
He did what he had to do pursuant to his duty as a citizen, a former councilor and most of all, as a victim. When the criminals fired back at him, they committed another round of criminal acts, and when they refused to surrender to him they committed resistance to a lawful order. Parsons was very lucky to have vanquished the criminals.

An additional consideration is the fact that the five hoodlums were using illegal firearms while Parsons was using a licensed one.

The death of the two and wounding of the third never gave rise to any liability on the part of Parsons. His actuations were all justified and under the law, a person who acts in pursuit of a lawful duty does not incur any criminal culpability.

Our message therefore to Parsons is: we commend him for what he has done and our law firm stands behind him. In the event that he should need legal services, we are ready to provide them to him, free of charge.

—SIMEON MADRID MAGDAMIT,
Barcelona, Barcelona & Magdamit Law Firm, 21/F Cityland 10, Tower 1, Ayala North, Makati City



Bad poetry on the highway

BEYOND THE EXPENSES for "the metal pipes and the reflectorized green placards" which carry Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees" that line the Pan Philippine highway according to reader Manuel R. Mendoza III, non-literature majors must know that the poem "Trees" is a bad poem.

True, many admire the poem, which is Kilmer's most famous work, published in Poetry Magazine in 1913 and which was later popularized by the singer Nelson Eddy.

If I remember correctly, Kilmer's full name was Alfred Joyce. He attended Columbia University and was a teacher and journalist in the United States. He later enlisted as a soldier during World War I and went to France. During a lull in the fighting, Kilmer's officer began to recite the poem "Trees" and Kilmer was said to have finished it. When he was asked why he was familiar with the poem, Kilmer said something like, "because I wrote it." Kilmer died in France at the age of 32.

Every poet dreams of having at least one of his works recited by many people long after his death, but popularity does not always translate into quality work. Kilmer had a good ear for sound, but in "Trees" he lacked the sense to match his natural gift. Based on his other more successful poems, Kilmer could have been a remarkable poet had he lived longer.

But why does "Trees" appeal to a certain sector of society? The same question is asked by the New Critics, Cleanth Brooks and Robert Penn Warren who pointed out the technical weakness of the poem. "Trees" does not work because of its "confused and inconsistent imagery," they said.

If our government officials want us to celebrate Arbor Day every day, let us patronize our own like Anthony Tan's "Talking to a Tree by the Boulevard" and Edith Tiempo's "Plants and People." Stop bad poetry on the highway!

—CHRISTINE F. GODINEZ-ORTEGA,
director, Iligan National Writers Workshop & Literature Teachers Conference in Mindanao

Ople's creditable Senate record

COLUMNIST Neal H. Cruz was wrong when he reported that Sen. Blas Ople has not authored a single piece of legislation in the Senate.

Ople, for your information, introduced the following bills that later were signed into law:

Republic Act 123— An act creating the Public Employment Service Offices, etc.

RA 234—The Passport Reform Act of 1996, imposing stiffer penalties for passport fraud.

RA 789—The Y2K Act, requiring disclosure of Y2K statements and year 2000 readiness of computer-based systems.

RA 345—The Heraldry Act of the Philippines, etc.

Joint Resolution No. 1—Calling for general salary increases to government workers within a four-year period beginning in 1994.

Since 1992 Ople, as chair of the Senate committee on foreign relations, has sponsored a total of 110 treaties and conventions. These treaties and conventions become part of the law of the land upon their approval by the Senate.

Each one of these treaties and conventions has strengthened the Philippines' political, economic and cultural ties with other nations, forging vital links to the international community under a rule of law.

Some of the landmarks during the last decade were the Senate approval of the Uruguay Round of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade which created the World Trade Organization, and the ratification of the Visiting Forces Agreement which enabled the Philippines and the United States to resume joint military exercises in pursuance of the Mutual Defense Treaty of 1951. On the VFA alone, the record shows Ople spent 47 hours on the floor answering interpellations.

His peers elected him Senate president in middle-1999. He has also served as president Pro Tempore, chair of the Senate committee on education, culture and the arts and the Senate committee on civil service and government reorganization. He chaired the foreign relations subcommittee of the Commission on Appointments.

A senator's lawmaking functions consist not only of introducing bills (we have thousands that remain unimplemented, that need corrective amendments and that were passed without funds) but also in intelligent participation in debates, committee hearings and sponsorship of major legislation.

In addition, Ople has never been involved in any controversial contract with the government. He has never been linked to any act of graft and corruption.

In the course of 30 years that he has been in government, he has not faced a single criminal, civil or administrative case alleging malfeasance or misfeasance in office against him.

Ople stands on his record of probity, achievement and nationalism. He probably suffers in the number of bills introduced but the quality of his work in the Senate remains outstanding.

—ALFREDO G. ROSARIO, 2/F Marbella II Bldg., 2071 Roxas Blvd., Manila

Winning bidder is the aggrieved party

THIS is a reaction to the news report of Michael Lim Ubac, titled "NEA also to blame for PPA" last May 25, 2002.

Nerwin Industries Corp. as winning bidder, vehemently denies that our company is a dummy firm. Its incorporators are all Filipino citizens. Tri-State Pole and Piling Inc. utilized all its resources to convince former President Estrada to stop the officials of the National Electrification Administration from awarding the contract to us, although we won the bid. It is not correct that Nerwin manipulated the results of the bidding because up to this time it is involved in a court action against the NEA officials on the matter of the legitimacy of the award of the contract in its favor.

There is an unfair and desperate move of a losing bidder (Tri-State Pole & Piling) to sabotage the Rural Electrification Project of the government. The interesting fact in this incident is that even the NEA officials admitted that it is disadvantageous to award the contract to Tri-State Pole & Piling because of the savings not only of P120 million but P247 million. However, the NEA officials (particularly its board of administrators) have refused to recognize the award in our favor up to this time. In fact, Nerwin is the injured party because after being declared the winning bidder of a contract, it must now fight the NEA officials in a court action.

Being the winning bidder, Nerwin has all the right to be concerned about developments in this matter, especially on the reported misappropriation or mysterious disappearance of our bid bonds.

To achieve balanced reporting, Ubac should also consider our side on the issues.

We prefer not to discuss this controversy any further considering that we have already filed cases against some officials of the NEA before the Office of the Ombudsman and the disposition of the issue on the award of the contract for IPB 80 (Supply and Delivery of Wood Poles and Cross-Arms) is already with the RTC Manila, Branch 36 titled "Nerwin Industries Corp. vs National Electrification Administration et al." docketed as Civil Case No. 01-102000.

—LINO GONZAGA
legal counsel, Nerwin Industries Corp., 4/F GSA Bldg., 1582 E. Remegio St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Responsibilities devolving on the laity

MY brother is a parish priest in upstate New York and last year, he told his parishioners that in two years, he would retire and it was certain that no one would replace him so maybe together they should use the time to plan how they could run the parish themselves—since he was certain they were perfectly capable of doing so. We had some visitors from the Netherlands and they said the same thing. There are no priests any more so they became a tighter community and divided up the tasks of the parish.

While I agree 100 percent with what Asuncion David Maramba writes on Church issues—I do think the change is more likely to come from the bottom than from the top. I sometimes teach a course at the seminary (MST) and bring in all the inspirational people I know—street kids, urban poor, workers, feminists, tribal leaders because of their faith and commitment—to impress on the seminarians that this is the church I worked with in Mindanao as a priest and pretty much knew the different groups—Catholics, Protestants, Muslims, Sabadistas etc.

When martial law came, I found on the side of "the people" were Catholics, Protestants, Muslims etc. and on "the other side" were Catholics, Protestants, Muslims etc. Meaning to say, it wasnt the labels that made the distinction—but where your body was...we took sides and that made the difference—we were one—a church...and it's more likely to happen that way than the other.

Thank you for keeping the flame alive.

—ED GERLOCK,
gerlock@pworld.net.ph

What do you think about the shooting of a man allegedly by an American soldier?

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

MASUSUBUKAN ang galing ni incoming Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople *sa kaso ng pamamaril na ito ng isang Amerikanong sundalo. Sa kaso ni* Buyong-buyong *malalaman kung sino ang mas mahalaga kay* Ople*—ang mga Pilipino o ang mga Amerikano* (The case of an American soldier shooting a suspected member of the Aby Sayyaf will test the skills of Foreign Affairs Secretary Blas Ople. In the Buyong-buyong case we will find out which is more important for Ople—Filipinos or Americans).—**Cory**

* * *

The first task is to prove who Buyong-buyong is. It is not because he is a Filipino, the Philippine government will automatically lock horns with the Americans. Buyong-buyong is suspected of being a member of the Abu Sayyaf. If he is proven to be so, then the Philippine government cannot defend this case against the Americans. There is no national interest violated when it comes to the Abu Sayyaf or the NPA or other subversive elements whose aim is to topple the government.

There is therefore, no test or challenge for Ople in this particular case. However, if Buyong-buyong is innocent as alleged by the wife, only then should the government take action against the Americans.—**banog**

* * *

The shooting is not a test whether Ople will choose between a Filipino and an American. The test is choosing between an Abu Sayyaf bandit and an American soldier helping us Pinoys fight terrorism. The choice is clear: I'll side with the American soldier.—**asarTalo**

* * *

Asar and Banog, all Filipinos must have their rights respected. Buyong-buyong and his family are Filipinos and must have all the rights granted to all Filipinos. If Buyong-buyong is a suspect that's the PNP/AFP's lookout, and whether he's a rebel or not is for RP jurisprudence to prove, not the US troops' summary judgment. It's clear that US troops violated the rule not to engage in combat.—**Cory**

* * *

Good point. How dare those Yanks fire upon our beloved, dear friends, the Abu Sayyaf! I say we should give back all the gifts that we received from those Yanks.

Which "right" were you talking about? The right to be plundered?—**JB**

* * *

"Summary judgment." Spoken like a true communist propagandist. Summary judgment? Look, the guy, who may have been guilty of beheading and rape, WAS SHOT IN THE LEG. At that range, even a complete idiot can't miss. He was taken to the hospital, so now tell me if that was summary judgment. I am more inclined to believe that it was an accident.—**Carlos**

* * *

You're the one who's judgmental. My point was the case to be heard for both the US soldier and the Filipino involved was to get justice. Letting the US soldier go away or simply reassigned will mean he's guilty of the crime committed as alleged by the Buyong-buyong family.—**Cory**

* * *

When the Americans had a joint military training in Australia, they paid $25,000 in compensation for killing an emu. Here in the Philippines, an American soldier can shoot a Filipino and the President says "it's up to the 'communists'" to prove their allegation that American Reggie Lane shot Buyong-buyong Isnijal during an operation. It is certain she has gone bananas.—**bj2002**

* * *

Political storm? I don't think so. If you consider the radical communists ranting and raving about a bona fide political storm, then you are right, but they have planned demonstrations all along.

We don't know what really happened but since the Abu Sayyaf fellow was shot in the leg, I am more inclined to believe that it was an accident. And since the communist radicals are always protesting, this is not new.—**Carlos**

* * *

For those folks clamoring for "justice" for the suspected Abu Sayyaf member who was supposedly shot by a US soldier—sit back, take a deep breath and think.

Why do we always cry "Wolf!" whenever Americans are supposed to have done something bad? Is it because of the Americans' sense of fair play or we hope that the US press might pick the story up and play the "oppressed people scene" back to the States?

Over coffee during breaktime at work, my colleagues and I discussed the merits of complaining against the United States and complaining against another country, say China. We all agreed that the Philippines would always fare better when the complaint is against the United States. The principal reason is: with the United States being an open country, with a judicial process second to none, and with a free press, the chances of getting the complaint publicized and getting possible support are a lot better. With China, that will not happen. Our government is treading carefully when it comes to relations with Taiwan and China. With a large Chinese-Filipino population, who have roots both in Taipei and mainland China, past and present residents of Malacañang have been very cautious. Why do you think Malacañang always issues cautious "statements" about Spratlys?

So now, here comes two representatives of the people wanting a congressional hearing. I wonder why they have not called for a hearing on the Spratly Islands issue.

Someone said this case will be a major test for Ka Blas Ople. Let me put it this way. If I'm the President and I picked you as my foreign secretary, whose policy are you going to implement? Folks, there is—in a government or any other organization—a chain of command. Ople may be the head of the Department of Foreign Affairs but that does not mean he'll call all the shots.

So get real and quit thinking about the ideal.—**nek2nek**

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Bush slams Hamas attack

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush on Wednesday strongly condemned Palestinian militants who planted a bomb that killed seven people—among them three US citizens—and injured 70 others at a Jerusalem university.

Bush vilified the Hamas militant group which claimed the attack at Hebrew University as "killers who hate the thought of peace." "I want to condemn in as strong as possible terms the attack that took place in Israel," Bush said at a cabinet meeting.

"This country condemns that kind of killing, and we send our deepest sympathy to the students and their families," he said.

Five of those killed in Wednesday's blast were of foreign origin, as the blast hit an international student center. Two female US citizens and one American male were among the dead, according to State Department spokesperson Julie Reside. A Frenchman was also killed.

The Israeli fatalities included a woman in her 50s and a man in his mid-20s.

The attack came a day before Bush was due to wade back into Middle East diplomacy in White House talks with Jordan's King Abdullah II.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was also due to hold a full schedule of meetings Thursday with White House, State Department and Pentagon officials.

The Jerusalem attack was the deadliest strike since Palestinian militants vowed to avenge a July 22 air raid on Gaza City that killed 15 Palestinians, including Hamas military chief Salah Shehade.

Bush said he wanted to "make it clear to the killers, they won't stop us from rallying the world to fight their kind of terror. "Nor will they stop us from having a vision of peace," he said. *AFP*

UN faults Israel for using heavy arms on civilians

UNITED NATIONS—A United Nations report faulted Israel for using heavy weaponry in civilian areas and keeping out medical workers during its assault on the Jenin refugee camp but said 200 Palestinian fighters used the camp as a base.

The cautiously written report, to be released on Thursday, avoids using the word "massacre," as some Arab envoys have charged, or making a judgment about whether one occurred during Israel's "Operation Defensive Shield" into Palestinian West Bank cities between March 29 and April 21.

However, the highly anticipated report from UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan dismissed claims that as many as 500 people had died, although it drew few other conclusions.

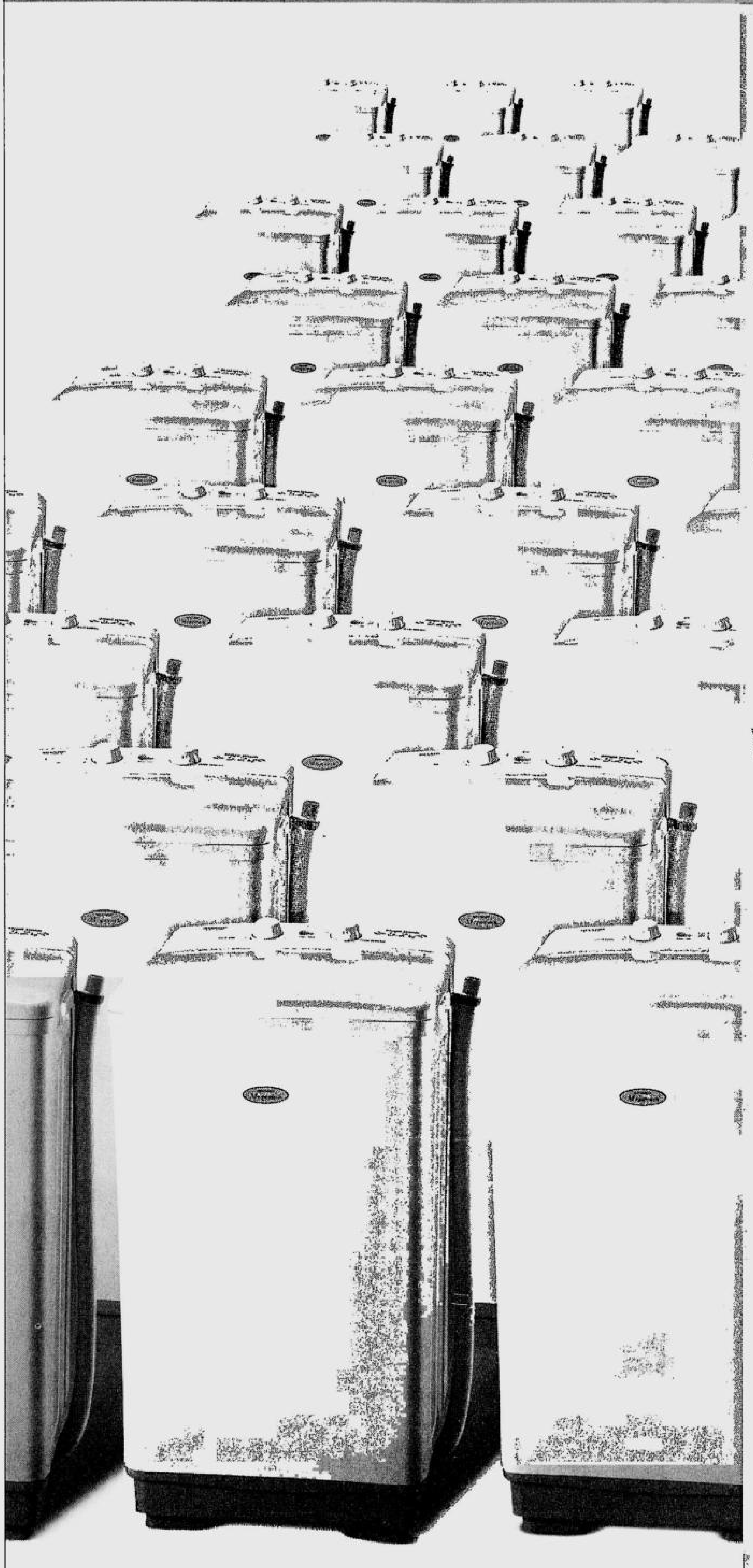
"A senior Palestinian Authority official alleged in mid-April that some 500 were killed, a figure that has not been substantiated in light of the evidence that has emerged," said a report obtained by Reuters.

It said 52 Palestinians died in Jenin, as many as half of them civilians, while Israel lost 23 soldiers.

Operation Defensive Shield was prompted by a March 27 suicide attack in the Israeli seaside town of Netanya, in which 28 people were killed and 140 injured.

The Israeli assault began on March 29 with an incursion into Ramallah, follow by Tulkarm, Qalqilya and Jenin and Nablus on April 3.

Using tanks, helicopter, gunships and bulldozers, the Israeli army attacked populated areas, causing severe hardships to civilians "compounded in some places by the extensive fighting that occurred during the operation," Annan said. *Reuters*



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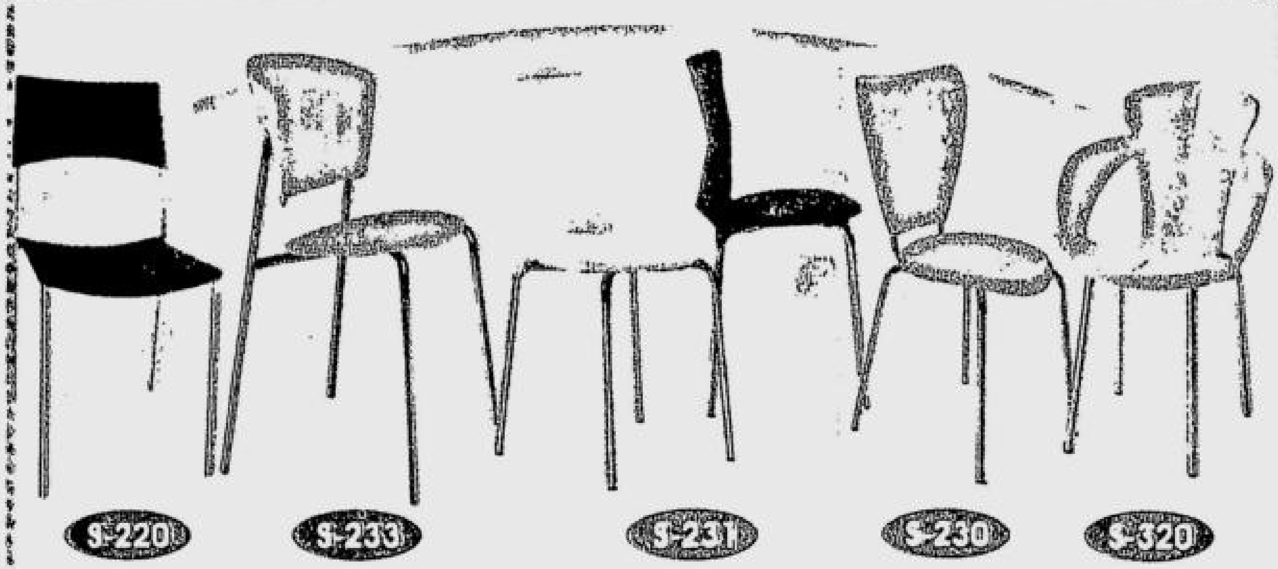

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US court refuses to hear al-Qaida prisoners' suit

WASHINGTON—A US court found Wednesday that it has no jurisdiction in Guantanamo, Cuba and refused to hear a suit by relatives seeking the release of accused as Taliban or al-Qaida fighters held by the US military there.

Relatives of 12 Kuwaitis, two Britons and an Australian held at the US naval base in Cuba filed a writ of habeas corpus, which compels officials to justify continued custody of a prisoner.

"The court concludes that the military base of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, is outside the sovereign territory of the United States (and) writs of habeas corpus are not available to aliens held outside the United States," said federal court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly.

The judge rejected the argument that the Guantanamo naval base constitutes the equivalent of a port of entry to US territory, as well as another argument that Washington exercises de facto sovereignty over the territory that the United States uses under a 99-year lease from Cuba.

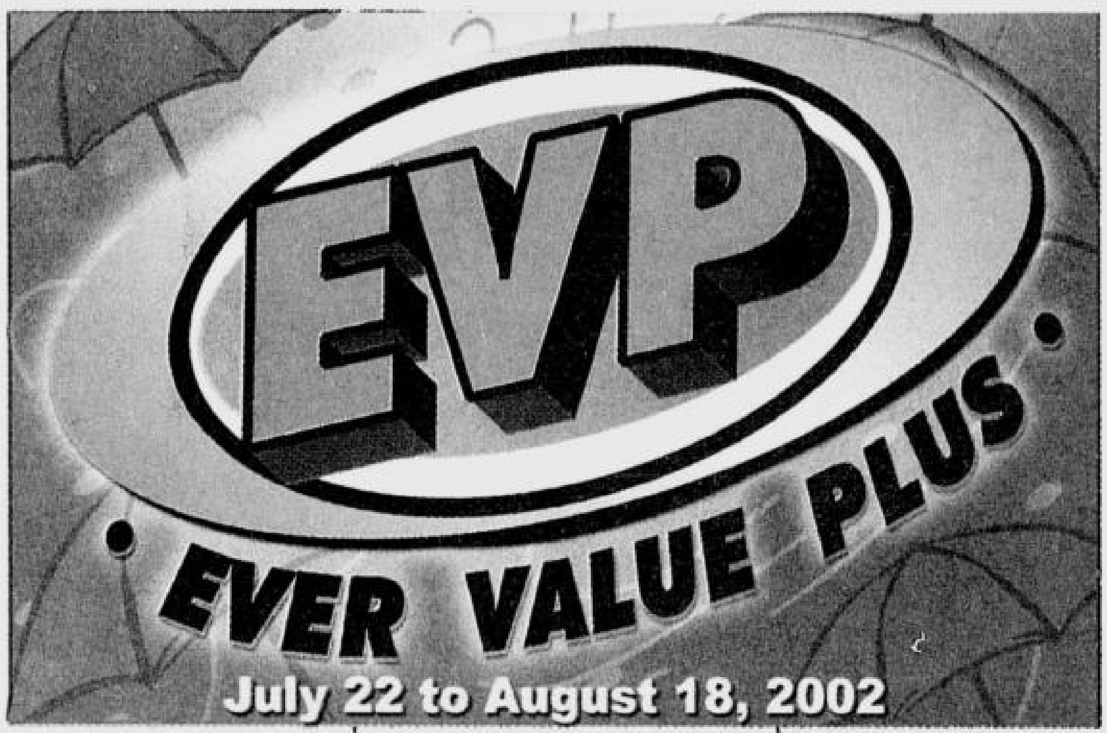
Kollar-Kotelly added that the decision does not prejudice any rights the prisoners may have under international law.

The number of prisoners captured in Afghanistan and held in Guantanamo has risen to 534 men, of 39 nationalities.

Washington has kept them in a judicial limbo, refusing them the status of prisoner-of-war as well as the customary protections. Washington calls them foreign "enemy combatants" held outside US territory solely under the authority of the president as commander-in-chief in a time of war.

The prisoners are denied access to lawyers and are under constant interrogation. Washington has refused even to release their names.

The writ was submitted in the names of Kuwaitis Fawzi Khalid Abdullah Fahad al Odeh, Britons Shafiq Rasul and Asif Iqbal and Australian David Hicks. *AFP*



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POPE John Paul II prays during the mass at the Basilica of Guadalupe in Mexico City, July 31. AFP

Pope makes peasant first Indian saint

MEXICO CITY—Pope John Paul II, fighting off exhaustion in a rapturous visit to Mexico, made a 16th-century peasant the first Indian saint in the Americas on Wednesday, rejecting doubts over whether the man even existed.

On the last leg of an 11-day tour, the 82-year-old pope looked drained but seemed delighted by ecstatic crowds as he canonized Juan Diego, whose visions of a dark-skinned Madonna helped convert indigenous Mexicans to Catholicism.

During the three-hour canonization Mass, the pope, who suffers from Parkinson's disease and arthritis, looked extremely tired and struggled to keep his head up.

At one point, an aide approached the pope and apparently asked if he wanted to have someone else read his homily, which has occurred in the past when he was tired.

Faltering voice

The pope read it himself in clear Spanish, but later his voice faltered several times and he appeared short of breath.

The pope's health in Guatemala and Mexico has been a marked contrast to last week in Canada, when he appeared alert and much more vigorous.

Inside the imposing modern basilica, a dozen Indians in multicolored, plumed Aztec headdresses danced up the central aisle as the pope declared Juan Diego a saint.

Outside, hundreds of thousands of people lined the streets of the capital as the pope drove to and from the basilica.

Mexican police said they arrested a 14-year-old boy for firing an air gun from the rooftop of his house shortly before the pope's motorcade passed by on the way from the Mass.

The boy was arrested after he hit a policeman with a BB, a small round pellet of shot fired from an air gun, said a police spokesman, who added that the pope was never a target. The pontiff, traveling in his bulletproof popemobile, and his convoy were unaware of the incident, a Vatican spokesperson said.

Inside the basilica, Indians blew conch shells and the entire congregation shook maracas.

Juan Diego

A huge official portrait of Juan Diego—controversial because he looks more like a Spanish conqueror than an indigenous peasant—was carried into the basilica in a thick wooden frame and mounted near the altar.

The apparition seen in 1531 by Juan Diego, whose Indian name, Cuauhtlatoatzin, means "Talking Eagle," later become known as the Virgin of Guadalupe and is a central icon in Mexico.

Some academics and even some clergymen believe the church invented Juan Diego and the Virgin's legend to win the mass conversion of Mexicans and Indians across Latin America to the church of their Spanish conquerors.

But the pope brushed the skeptics aside, saying that both Juan Diego and the Virgin of Guadalupe had a key role in spreading Christianity in the Americas.

"Juan Diego . . . facilitated the fruitful meeting of two worlds and became the catalyst for the new Mexican identity, closely united to Our Lady of Guadalupe, whose mestizo face expresses her spiritual motherhood which embraces all Mexicans," said the pope.

It is difficult to overstate the affection Mexicans have for their Virgin. Her image is everywhere and she is perhaps the most powerful symbol of identity and unity in a country of 100 million people with dozens of indigenous groups, many of which have suffered repression and poverty over the centuries.

Spiritual recognition

The canonization of Juan Diego "is a spiritual recognition of a people based on their ancient roots," said one of the dancers, Felix Vidal, a Mexican Indian.

Repeating a theme he focused on in his visit to Guatemala earlier this week, the pope said Mexico needed to offer its 10 million-strong Indian population greater "justice and solidarity" if it was to become a better country.

"Mexico needs its indigenous people and these peoples need Mexico," he said to loud applause.

Ninety percent of Mexicans are Roman Catholics and the nation holds a special charm for the Polish pope. *Reuters*

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US urged to weigh risks of attack on Iraq

WASHINGTON—The United States must carefully weigh the human and financial costs of carrying out President George W. Bush's goal of ousting Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, lawmakers and experts cautioned Wednesday.

"We need to weigh the risks of action versus the risks of inaction," said Democratic Senator Joseph Biden, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations committee, at the start of two days of hearings on assessing the Iraqi threat.

"We must estimate, soberly, the human and economic cost of war plans and post-war plans," agreed Republican Senator Dick Lugar, a member of the same panel.

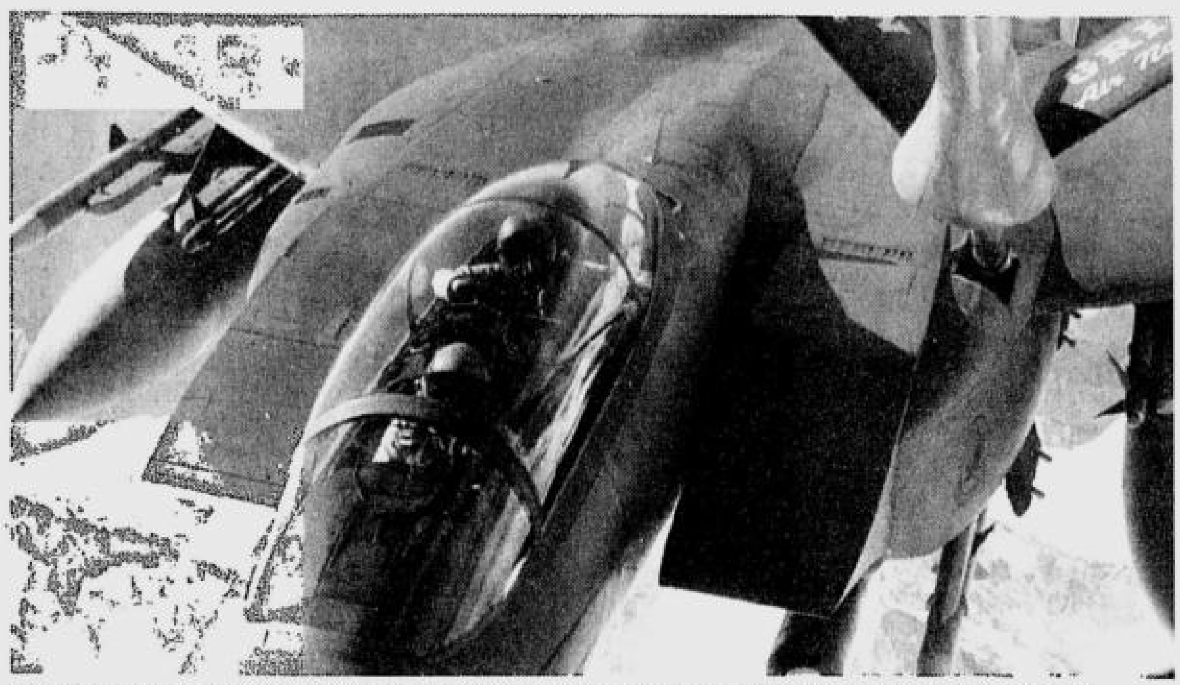
Bush has stated his determination to remove Saddam Hussein from power, insisting that the Iraqi president's pursuit of weapons of mass destruction posed a threat to the United States and its allies.

Lawmakers have insisted that Bush consult with Congress and clearly outline his military plan before pursuing his objective, and warned that the president had to persuade the American people and US allies—particularly those in the region who are sceptical of such action—to support the initiative.

Speaking to the committee, defense and military expert Anthony Cordesman of the Center for Strategic and International Studies also warned the US administration not to underestimate Iraqi military forces.

"To be perfectly blunt, I think only fools would bet the lives of other men's sons and daughters on their own arrogance and call this force a cakewalk or a speed bump or something that you can dismiss," he said.

"I think efforts to dismiss the military capabilities of Iraq are dangerous and irresponsible," he added. "This is not a force that can be dismissed." *AFP*



PICTURE released by the US Air Force shows a US F-15E Strike Eagle getting refueled by a KC-135 Stratotanker during a mission supporting Operation Northern Watch over Iraq, May 8. UN Secretary General Koffi Annan warned August 1 the United States against military action to remove Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, saying new strikes would not be "wise."

AFP

Give Saddam new chance, world told

WASHINGTON—A former top UN weapons inspector told a US Senate committee on Wednesday Iraq's weapons program was an active threat but the international community should give Saddam Hussein another chance to let inspectors in "before taking other measures."

Former UN weapons inspector Richard Butler testified at the opening of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing meant as the start of a national debate over President George W. Bush's declared intention to oust the Iraqi president.

With the world on edge over US intentions after repeated remarks by Bush, several experts at the hearing, including Butler, doubted Saddam would make sufficient conciliatory gestures to avoid an American attack.

But in the absence of a "smoking gun"—hard evidence of an Iraqi intention to use weapons of mass destruction or pass them on to international terrorist groups—that approach could be used to justify eventual invasion, they said.

Butler headed the UN inspection agency set up to supervise the dismantling of Saddam's weapons after the 1991 Gulf War, but inspectors left the country in 1998. He said it was important to try again to get inspections resumed. *Reuters*

Analysts, solons expect no military action this year

By Charles Aldinger

WASHINGTON—Despite increasing threats from the White House to get rid of Iraq's President Saddam Hussein's regime, analysts and lawmakers do not expect any US military attack against Iraq this year.

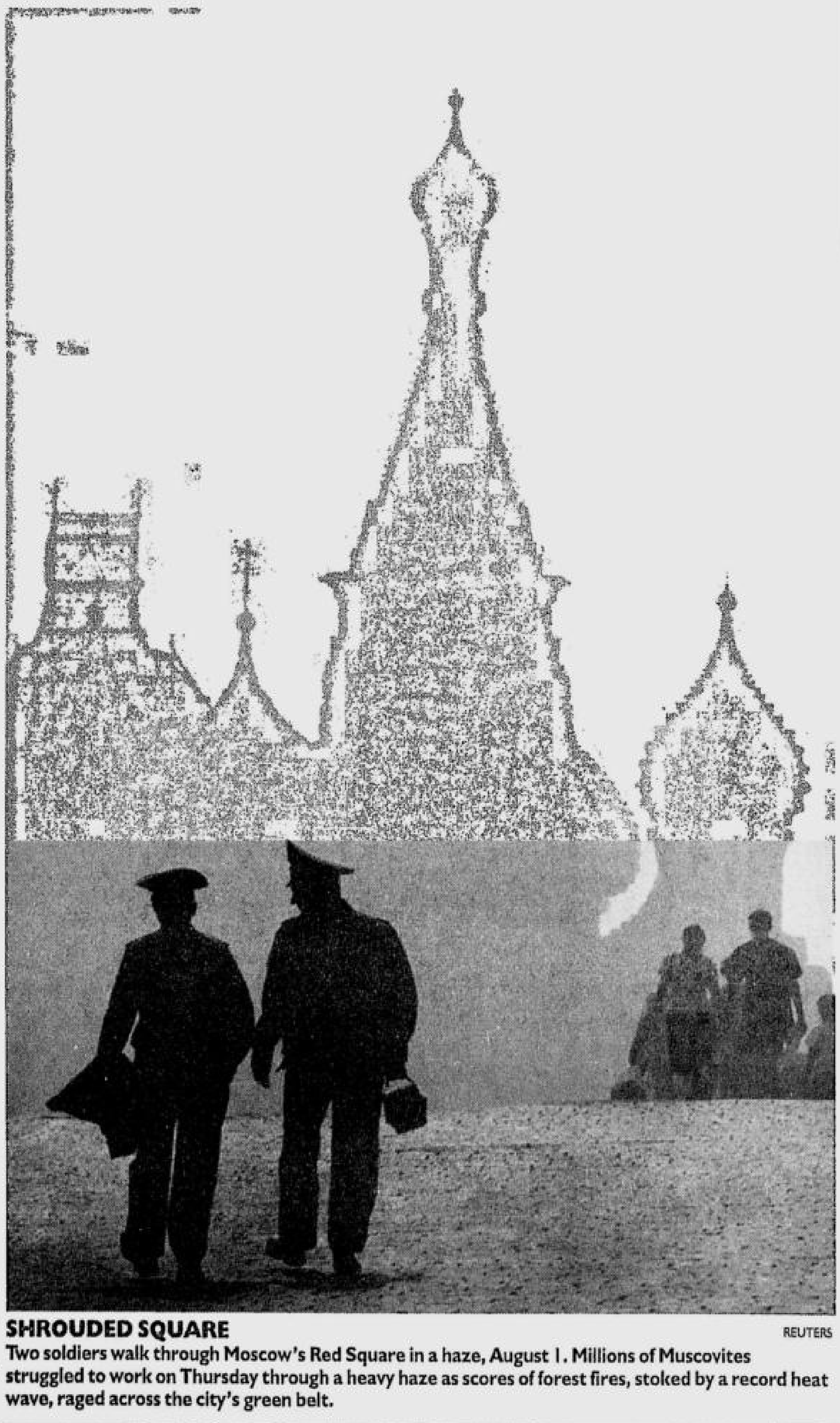
There are no outward signs of a US military buildup in the Gulf. But a drumbeat of warnings from US President George W. Bush that Saddam must be deposed has triggered deep concern in the Middle East, Europe and world markets over any new war with Baghdad.

Experts say there is no doubt who would prevail, even if the United States alone thrusts 250,000 or more troops and warplanes at a weakened Iraq. But many say the conflict could destabilize the area with a vacuum in Iraq, send oil prices skyrocketing and hammer shaky world economies.

With the US congressional election set for November and Americans hurting from a recent collapse in share prices, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee predicted this week that no invasion would come this year.

"They (the Republican administration) may have made up their mind on regime change. But I would be very, very surprised if the president has made a decision on how he intends to change the regime. I would be even more surprised if there's any such attempt . . . between now and the first of the year," said Sen. Joseph Biden, Democrat of Delaware.

But Bush, who includes Iraq with North Korea and Iran in an "axis of evil" he says is backing "international terrorism" and developing weapons of mass destruction, has openly embraced the idea of preemptive action to protect America and its allies. *Reuters*



SHROUDED SQUARE

REUTERS

Two soldiers walk through Moscow's Red Square in a haze, August 1. Millions of Muscovites struggled to work on Thursday through a heavy haze as scores of forest fires, stoked by a record heat wave, raged across the city's green belt.

19 killed in Ukraine mine blast only days after air show crash

KIEV—At least 19 miners were killed and one was reported missing late Wednesday after a mine blast in Ukraine, the latest disaster to hit the country only four days after scores were killed in an air show crash, emergencies ministry official Grigory Myronyak said.

An earlier toll had 19 killed and five missing.

As many as 44 rescue teams were sent to the Zasyadko coal mine in the eastern Donetsk region, the head of the mine said.

The cause of the disaster was not immediately known, but another explosion could not be ruled out, emergencies ministry spokesperson Dmitry Boguslavsky said.

The blast, which occurred at a depth of 1,076 meters, capped a series of catastrophes that hit Ukraine in July.

The country was already in shock after a fighter jet crashed at an air show in western Ukraine Saturday.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma declared a national day of mourning Monday.

The crash, the world's most deadly air show disaster on record, killed 83 people, including 23 children. Another 199 onlookers were injured.

The youngest victim was a one-year-old boy, and an entire family—father, mother and two children—was also killed in the air show tragedy, according to media.

That disaster shed new light on the sorry state of the country's under-funded and demoralized armed forces.

Kuchma's administration immediately held the military responsible, arresting the air force chief and three other senior air force officials. *AFP*

Man who took Viagra gets nosebleed

LONDON—A man who took Viagra to boost his sexual performance ended up in hospital for almost a week with an unstoppable nosebleed, British surgeons reported on Thursday.

Lucy Hicklin and colleagues at St George's Hospital in London said the man was admitted to the accident and emergency department after a six-hour nosebleed.

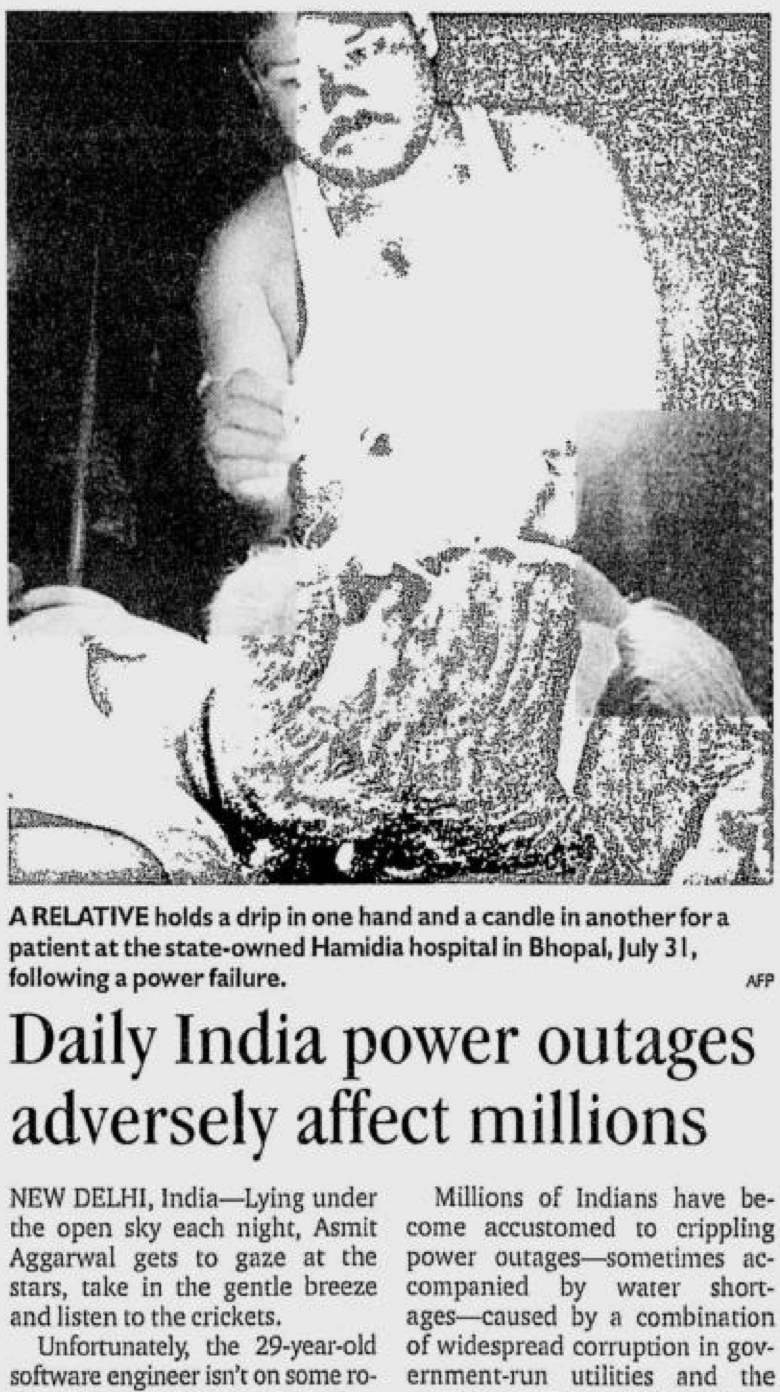
Even there, several attempts to stop the bleeding failed and doctors kept him in hospital for six days.

The man, who was in his late 50s, told them he had engaged in energetic sexual activity in the hours before his first nosebleed. To enhance his performance, he had taken a 50 mg dose of Viagra.

The doctors said they had also seen another Viagra patient who suffered the same fate though his nosebleed was stopped after only two days.

Both men had high blood pressure, a recognized risk factor for heavy nosebleeds, but neither had required to go to hospital before.

Writing in the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine, they said Viagra may act on the nose as well as the penis since both organs contain erectile tissue. *Reuters*



A RELATIVE holds a drip in one hand and a candle in another for a patient at the state-owned Hamidia hospital in Bhopal, July 31, following a power failure.

AFP

Daily India power outages adversely affect millions

NEW DELHI, India—Lying under the open sky each night, Asmit Aggarwal gets to gaze at the stars, take in the gentle breeze and listen to the crickets.

Unfortunately, the 29-year-old software engineer isn't on some romantic getaway, he's on his roof.

The au natural sleeping arrangement is Aggarwal's only way of dealing with the daily power outages across India. Each summer night, as the power—and air conditioning—fades, he climbs two flights of stairs with a mattress, sheets, pillow and mosquito-repellant and tries to sleep on the rooftop.

"It's an every day thing now," Aggarwal says. And he has even stopped complaining to the electric company, saying: "You have to get used to sleepless nights."

Millions of Indians have become accustomed to crippling power outages—sometimes accompanied by water shortages—caused by a combination of widespread corruption in government-run utilities and the common practice of illegally tapping power from overhead lines.

Residents also tamper with electricity meters, and politicians order subsidized or free power for farmers to win votes, pushing utilities to overdraw power and into bankruptcy.

India's power sector has been at the precipice of disaster for decades, a situation exacerbated in the summer by the scorching heat. Power Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu said losses are currently at $5.4 billion, and that about half of all power made is stolen *AP*

Dogs may be cleverer than most people think

LONDON—Dogs are probably much cleverer than most people think, according to a new study.

Scientists are convinced that dogs can count and researchers at the University of California Davis say they try to convey different messages through the pitch and pace of their barks.

"Animal behaviorists used to think their bark was simply a way of getting attention. Now a new study suggests that individual dogs have specific barks with a range of meanings," New Scientist magazine said on Wednesday.

Dogs usually use high-pitched single barks when they are separated from their owners and a lower, harsher superbark when strangers approach or the doorbell rings, according to Sophia Yin, an animal behaviorist at the university.

Playful woofs are high-pitched and unevenly spaced.

Dogs also know when they are being short-changed on treats because they have a basic mathematical ability which enables them to tell when one pile of objects is bigger than another.

"But to count, an animal has to recognize that each object in a set corresponds to a single number and that the last number in a sequence represents the total number of objects," New Scientist added.

Robert Young of Brazil's Pontifical Catholic University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte, tested the theory on 11 mongrels using dog treats.

The canines were shown treats and then a screen was lowered and the goodies were left as they were or some were added or taken away.

If a treat was added or taken away the dogs looked at the treats much longer than they did when the goodies were not disturbed, presumably because they had done their sums and the numbers did not meet their expectations.

"Dogs are descended from wolves, which not only have a large neocortex—the brain's center of reasoning—but live in large social groups," the magazine said.

Young believes the mathematical ability could have been used to work out how many allies and enemies they had in a pack. *Reuters*

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Cyanide fumes kill miner, trap others on Diwalwal

DAVAO CITY—A gold tunnel timber man died while several others remain missing after poison-filled smoke clouded a mining tunnel in the violence-prone area of Mt. Diwalwal in Compostela Valley.

Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero yesterday told reporters here that Roberto Zamora died of suffocation when smoke from burning tires laced with cyanide spread to the tunnel he and several other miners were working in on July 28.

Ten other miners were successfully pulled out of the smoke-filled tunnel as of Tuesday night but Caballero said more miners were believed to be trapped inside and were considered missing.

"There was difficulty in retrieving the missing miners because of fear of suffocation on the side of rescuers," he said.

Based on reports, Caballero said the poisonous smoke originated from the Victory tunnel owned by the JB Management and Mining Corp. (JBMMC).

Mt. Diwata Barangay captain Franco Tito said that prior to the incident, trucks belonging to a ranking Monkayo official were seen transporting worn out tires to the area.

Although Tito did not identify the ranking official, most miners in Diwata, popularly known as Mt. Diwalwal, blamed Mayor Jose Brillantes for the incident.

Brillantes owns JBMMC.

But Caballero urged the miners to refrain from making conclusions as an investigation was underway.

"I condemn this incident. We will identify the culprit after the investigation. This is a barbaric act. I cannot make any accusation right now even if Tito has mentioned some officials in his report unless there is a complete investigation," the executive said.

Prior to the incident, Tito also told reporters here that at least three persons were killed in separate ambuscades in the gold rush area.

Tito said that the first violence, which occurred after a government-led settlement between disputing mining groups started last month, was on July 25 when two suspected members of Brillantes' group were gunned down by armed men in Poblacion, Monkayo.

Tito said that two days after the ambush, a band of armed men also shot and killed Edgardo Vistal, an employee of Blucor Mineral Corp.

Brillantes' JBMMC and Blucor, along with other small mining firms, were locked in a long-standing dispute.

Caballero said he already asked Mayor Rodrigo Duterte to intervene to stop hostilities in the gold rush area.

Duterte was asked by President Macapagal-Arroyo to find a long-term solution to the conflict.

Prior to the renewed violence, Duterte warned miners to keep their cool or lose their grip on Mt. Diwata.

Duterte said that if violence continues, the government would be forced to take over the gold rush area. *Ayan Mellejor, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Prosecutors file murder raps vs gov's grandson

DAVAO CITY—Government prosecutors here have concluded that Maguindanao Gov. Datu Andal Ampatuan's grandson committed treachery when he shot Carlo Asistido, son of former city treasurer Maximo Asistido, inside a posh entertainment center here on Sunday.

That was the reason Mohammad Bahnarin Ampatuan, 18, was charged with murder and not homicide, according to chief city prosecutor Raul Bendigo.

Bendigo said based on witnesses' accounts, the victim was not aware that he was to be shot, denying him a chance to put up a defense.

Based on initial police findings, Asistido was trying to mediate between Ampatuan and Junjun Paglas, the son of former Mayor Ebrahim Paglas of Datu Paglas, Maguindanao, during a spat inside the The Venue here around 2:30 a.m. on Sunday.

Instead of listening to Asistido, Ampatuan allegedly grabbed a gun from one of his soldier-bodyguards and fired at the victim.

Prosecutor Rowena Apao-Adlawan said that Ampatuan had intended to kill Paglas. *Anthony Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Morse code beats cellphones in Cordillera villages

BAGUIO CITY—When everything else fails, Morse coding remains the most reliable telecommunications system during typhoons and calamities in remote Cordillera towns.

Although high frequency radio operators consider Morse coding obsolete, the Department of Transportation and Communications maintains at least 65 HF (high frequency) radios, the main machine that helps transmit Morse codes.

"The Morse code is here to stay as long as there's information that needs to be transmitted during typhoons, heavy rains and disasters," said Elmer Mendoza, facilitator of the operations division of the DOTC's National Telecommunications Office here.

The Cordillera region has the highest demand for telegraph messaging through Morse code due to the absence of cell sites and telephones. The rugged terrain and landlocked area of Cordillera are not the ideal place to host modern facilities.

The Morse code was developed by Samuel Morse, an American scientist and one of the inventors of the first practical electric telegraph system in 1837.

The code is practically recognized by its bleeping sound that eventually becomes a message when decoded by a telegraph operator.

"We rely on this old technology because it is the easiest to maintain, unlike modern facilities that are occasionally busted whenever there are typhoons," said Mendoza.

There are rural telephones in trade centers but less than 50 percent of villagers have access to them, he said. He said the telegraph system is the most accessible to villagers who want to send social telegrams.

The centers are open eight hours a day, five days a week. They charge P1.20 per word for regular messages and P5 per word for special messages.

But during typhoons, the centers are open 24 hours a day.

Since some Cordillera towns have cell sites, especially in Tabuk, Kalinga, more villagers use cellular phones, reducing the income of telecommunications centers.

"Because of low profit brought about by cellphones, we are anticipating that our office will be dissolved soon. In fact, some government officials said we cannot justify our existence anymore because we are not earning," Mendoza said.

Last year, the monthly revenue of telegraph centers reached only P133,000 which, Mendoza said, was not enough to even pay the salaries of 135 employees. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Alert level for dengue up as 2 Bohol boys die

By Chito A. Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau
and Edwin Fernandez
PDI Mindanao Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—The Provincial Health Office (PHO) has reported that dengue fever claimed the lives of two boys in Bohol in July.

Sanitation inspector Allan Cubarol identified the fatalities as Bulian Yu, 17, of Pilar town and Eric Bongcac, 6, of Tagbilaran City.

He told the INQUIRER in a phone interview that Yu died at the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital on July 18 while Bongcac, at a private hospital on July 19.

According to Cubarol, PHO data showed that 81 dengue cases were reported from January to July this year.

Not a single case of dengue was reported in May but the number of cases sharply increased by 21 in June and 23 as of July 28.

Tagbilaran City has the most dengue cases with 14.

A check made with the City Health Office showed that at least one case of dengue was reported in the city's 14 barangays.

In Cotabato City, tests showed that nine out of 10 mosquito larva in the city were positive of the dengue-causing virus, prompting the city health office to raise the alarm level against the deadly disease.

Dr. Abdullah Dumama, city health chief, said this meant that the volume of dengue-carrying mosquitoes has increased and that it should be cause for alarm.

Last year, tests conducted in the city showed that only one out of ten larva was positive of the dengue virus.

"But recent study showed nine of ten *kiti-kiti* are positive of the dengue-causing virus," he said.

Dumama said at least two types of mosquitoes infest households in the city but the other type came out negative of the virus.

Because of the new findings, the city health office formed a "Tugis lamok team" composed of health workers.

The team goes from house to house to destroy mosquito-breeding sites.

But Dumama said the anti-dengue campaign could become more successful if residents participate.

"Now is the time for us to unite, let's kill the virus before it kills us," Dumama said.

He also called on newly elected village officials to lead their constituents into cleaning their surroundings "before its too late."

Village officials would start assuming their posts on Aug. 15.

"Let's not wait for Aug. 15, let's do it now," Dumama said.

Based on city health office records, there were a total of 96 dengue cases since January.

No death was reported from the day the disease was monitored.

In 2001, at least 300 dengue cases were monitored in all of the city's 37 barangays. Three victims died of varied complications.

The health department urged the public to clean homes and communities and to properly dispose of plastics, cans, old tires that may serve as larva breeding sites.

Congressman urges probe of brod's smuggling links

BUTUAN CITY—Rep. Edelmiro Amante of Agusan del Norte called on the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to investigate and prosecute his younger brother Nitoy, who was being linked to the disappearance of some P17 million worth of smuggled rice here on July 12.

"He must be investigated, prosecuted and imprisoned if found guilty. This government is run by laws," Amante told the INQUIRER on Tuesday.

He said he was not aware of the alleged activities of his brother because they already lost contact.

"I no longer have communication with him," he said.

The former Ramos executive secretary also urged the NBI to hasten its investigation to unmask the other personalities behind the failed smuggling and to go after them "whoever they are."

Amante issued the statement after Agusan del Norte 1st District Rep. Leovigildo Banaag sought an investigation of the disappearance of MV Rodeo, the vessel used to bring in the contraband.

Authorities had already seized the vessel on July 11 but a few hours later, it sailed for Cebu with fresh paint dubbed on its vessel's identity. *Franklin Caliguid, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Bishop vows to sustain fight against gambling

DAGUPAN CITY—Despite denials that there was a plan to establish a casino in a hotel in Calasiao town, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz said he would continue his crusade against gambling.

"I am not an alarmist but we must plug all holes on this venture. I want to make certain that this high stake gambling does not invade our place because we have enough problems. So we want the seed of casino gambling not to germinate in our place," Cruz said.

Cruz, immediate past president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said a parishioner alerted him on the "planned soft opening" of the casino at the Pangasinan Regency Hotel here on July 26.

But Adolfo Fernandez, owner of the Pangasinan Regency Hotel, denied that there was a plan to put up a casino in his hotel.

Cruz said a casino never contributes to the development of the local economy. "It just circulates the money; it does not generate wealth," he said.

The Agco, a civil society group which Cruz chairs, has launched a "sustained campaign to stop" the casino's establishment by writing letters to President Macapagal-Arroyo, Speaker Jose de Venecia and Calasiao Mayor Roy Macanlalay to "intercede in the matter." *Yolanda Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Group to sue power firm officials

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—The head of a consumer group here has accused top officials of the Panay Electric Company (Peco) of allegedly passing on the costs of their own electric consumption to consumers.

Lawyer Romeo Gerochi, a convenor of the People Opposed to Warrantless Electricity Rates (Power) in Iloilo, said the electric consumption of the residences of these unidentified officials were included in the computation of systems losses of the company that is used to determine the generation charge in the monthly billing of consumers.

The charging of the electric bills of the company officials to consumers, he said, was confirmed by Peco's accountant Niel Parcon during a hearing last July 26 at the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) in Pasig City, Manila.

Gerochi said he would ask the ERC to require Peco to reveal the identity of the seven officials and the volume of electricity consumed in their residences for the past 10 years.

Once he gets hold of these data, he added, he might file estafa charges against these officials.

Parcon denied Gerochi's allegation, saying he was "quoted out of context." He refused to elaborate because, he said, the case was up for decision by the ERC.

Carlos Borja, Peco public relations officer, also refuted Gerochi. He said the ERC allows the company to use 1 percent of the total power it generates for company use, which includes the electricity consumption of company officials.

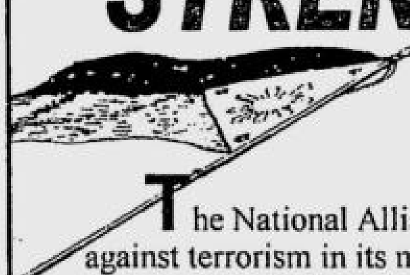
Gerochi, who also heads the consumers group Environmental Consumers Network Inc., said Peco was overcharging its consumers by jacking up its generation cost and including expenses not related to the generation of electricity.

According to records submitted by Peco to the ERC, Gerochi said the company includes employee benefits, contributions to the Social Security System and Philippine Health Insurance Corporation, among others, in the computation of the generation charge.

Borja, however, said the expenses for benefits and contributions to the SSS and PhilHealth apply only to employees who are directly related to power generation like operators of generators and maintenance crew.

Gerochi said consumers should be paying less because the PPA was reduced by P1.25 per kilowatt-hour (kWh).

The Peco filed a petition before the ERC for a 36-centavo per kWh increase. The company, the sole power distributor in Iloilo City's 180 barangays, has been under fire from consumers for unannounced power interruptions and alleged inefficient service.



STRENGTHEN DEMOCRACY! FIGHT TERRORISM!

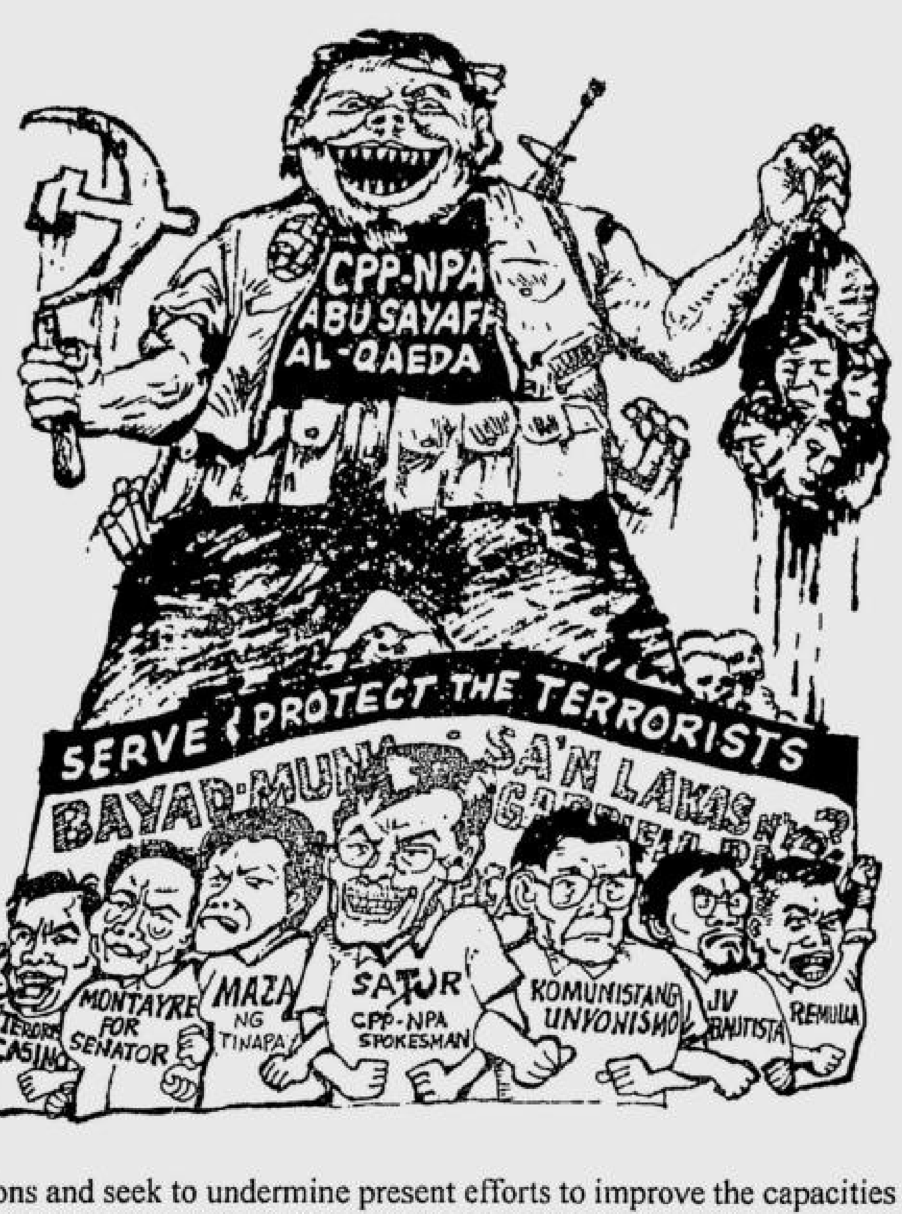
The National Alliance for Democracy (NAD) calls on all patriotic Filipinos to join the struggle against terrorism in its many forms.

Terrorist groups in our own society have wreaked havoc on the lives of ordinary Filipinos. They have killed and maimed innocent citizens. They have sabotaged the development of rural communities. They have kidnapped and held hostage hundreds of Filipinos. In the guise of "revolutionary taxation", they have systematically extorted from rich and poor alike in order to finance their campaigns of terror.

These terrorist groups are responsible for the climate of fear that undermines our development. The nation can only truly progress after we have exterminated the armed gangs seeking power through the barrel of the gun. Only then will our democratic way of life be secure.

NAD wholly supports the global coalition against terrorism. This is a coalition based on the sovereign consent of the allied nations. This is a coalition of free and progressive societies defending civilization from the forces of brutality and fanaticism.

NAD wholly supports the democratic and outward-looking foreign policy articulated by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo. This foreign policy aligns us with the forces of freedom and enlightenment across the globe. It is a foreign policy that puts us at the forefront of the struggle against the forces of evil. It is a policy that strengthens our domestic effort to crush local terrorists and assure our citizens a secure and stable environment for progress.



NAD applauds the commitment of the Arroyo administration to the restoration of law and order in our land. Only when the Republic is strong, when its institutions are effective and when its laws are reliably applied will the mass of our people be liberated from poverty.

NAD condemns in the strongest terms the duplicity and cynicism of the communist groups seeking to tarnish RP-US cooperation in the campaign against terrorism. The communist groups are engaged in terrorism themselves. They fear the restoration of strong democratic institutions and seek to undermine present efforts to improve the capacities of our security agencies to deal with terrorism. This is the unspoken agenda behind their unpopular campaign against the *Balikatan* exercises.

In particular, we condemn the attempt of the CPP-NPA front organization *Bayan Muna* to distort the truth and implicate an American medic in the wounding of an Abu Sayyaf bandit. Filipino Scout Rangers deserve all the credit for the successful and courageous arrest of the notorious bandit wanted for multiple rape and murder. The medic, in fact, saved the wounded rebel who must now face due process and account for his crimes.

We know what *Bayan Muna* and *Sanlakas - PMAP* are up to. Through lies and with the aid of their foreign contingent masquerading as transnational human rights vigilantes, they are trying to establish a case for agitating against the forthcoming visit of US Secretary of State Collin Powell. For the sake of pushing their bankrupt political line, the truth matters very little for these communists.

It is the communists who have serious human rights violations to account for. Satur Ocampo, in particular, presided over the bloody purge in the CPP-NPA that resulted in the torture and deaths of thousands of peasant and cadres in the Southern Tagalog region alone.

NAD assures Ocampo he will account for his crimes. So will all his fellow fanatics in the CPP-NPA.

NAD invites all patriotic Filipinos to show our support in the worldwide struggle against terrorism. In this struggle, we are fighting to secure our democratic way of life and a progressive future for our children.

★ National Alliance for Democracy

We invite all patriotic Filipinos to join a rally for democracy and peace on Saturday, August 3, 2002 at 9:00 A.M., Liwasang Bonifacio, Manila.

Always tune in at **BAYAN KO, SAGOT KO!** **Monday to Friday 7:00 - 8:00 P.M. 1278 Khz. DZRM**

2 more die of toxic wastes from ex-bases

AMID the expanded RP-US war exercises in Central Luzon, two toxic waste victims died of cancer in Pampanga and in Olongapo City recently.

Ernesto Borja, 46, a hog farm feed mixer, is the father of Rowell Borja, the boy with congenital central nervous system disorder.

Borja's mother died of breast cancer when he was only 2-years-old. Today at 7, his father died of cancer of the kidney here in Mabalacat, Pampanga leaving 11 children, with Rowell as the youngest.

Norma Diago, 55, a member of an Aeta community in Pastulan Village, was among the landfill workers in the former naval base of US forces in Subic.

She had been suffering from lung cancer for years.

The elder Borja's and Diago's deaths bring to 26 the list of victims of toxic waste contamination in Clark and Subic from January to July alone.

This means an average of 3.71 deaths per month this year.

The victims are all adults and most died of kidney and lung cancer. Some were brought back to their villages in Manibaug and Calsarang Bayo in Porac, Pampanga for burial.

The People's Task Force for Bases Cleanup (PTFBC) has been closely monitoring and recording the victims' health situation since 1996. Once a campaign desk of the Nuclear Free Philippines Coalition, this NGO started its campaign for cleanup of the former US Military Bases in Subic and Clark in 1989.

The Borjas lived in Cabcom for five years where they ingested water found to be contaminated with arsenic, lead and other heavy metals. Early environmental studies found organic pollutants such as PCBs, DDT, Dieldrin, Aldrin and many others in and around the communities surrounding the former Clark Air Base.

These pollutants are known carcinogens.

Rowell was conceived and born in Cabcom with sensory disorders.

Thousands of families lived in Cabcom following the Mt. Pinatubo eruption in 1992.

Other victims in need of help are Jake Sibal, 4, an Aeta boy with tumors in the body; May Rivera, 18, with severe skin disease and Thanya Sabangan, 2, with congenital heart disease.

Nutrition wanting in Misamis Occidental

OROQUIETA CITY—More than a third of Misamis Occidental's children suffer from varying degrees of malnutrition, according to a recent government survey.

But only P400,000 was available to provide them nutrition.

Agnes Omega, provincial nutrition action officer, said out of the 47,040 pre-school children included in the survey, 36 percent or about 17,015 were found to be underweight. But she quickly added that the malnutrition prevalence in the province was mild.

Of the total number of malnourished children, 399 are severely underweight, 2,514 in the moderate category, 12,599 are mild and 1,508 are overweight.

The nutrition survey, which covered 14 towns in Misamis Occidental, was anchored on the standard desired weight of a child at a given age.

Omega said the survey also reinforced findings that malnutrition is linked to the socio-economic status of a family.

It was found that families with underweight children were mostly impoverished "with very low income to support a recommended nutritious diet" everyday.

Most of the victims of malnutrition were found in the hinterland towns of Don Victoriano and Concepcion. *Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Peace panel seat to go to bishop

BACOLOD CITY—A bishop of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines has been recommended to become the fifth member of the Joint Enforcement Monitoring Committee (JEMC) that will oversee the peace pact between the government and the Rebolusyonaryong Partido ng Manggagawa Pilipinas-Revolutionary Proletarian Army-Alex Boncayao Brigade.

Representatives from both the government and the RPMP-RPA-ABB have agreed to the selection of Gomez as the fifth member of the JEMC, according to RPA-ABB chief Carapali Lualhati.

Lualhati said the name of Gomez was already submitted to President Macapagal-Arroyo. Gomez has agreed to accept the JEMC membership, Lualhati added.

Gomez, a Mindanao based Aglipayan bishop, was chosen because of his vast experience in peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in Mindanao, Lualhati said.

The JEMC will formulate guidelines and supervise the implementation of the peace agreement between the government signed in Salvador Benedicto, Negros Occidental two years ago.

The other JEMC members are composed of two representatives from both panels. The RPA-ABB is represented by RPA-ABB national commander Stephen Paduano, the real name of Lualhati, and Veronica Tabara, wife of RPMP head Arturo Tabara. The government is represented by Secretary Teresita Quintos Deles, convenor of the National Anti-Poverty Commission, and Undersecretary Victor Mayo, deputy director of the National Security Council. *Carla P. Gomez and Nestor Burgos, PDI Visayas Bureau*

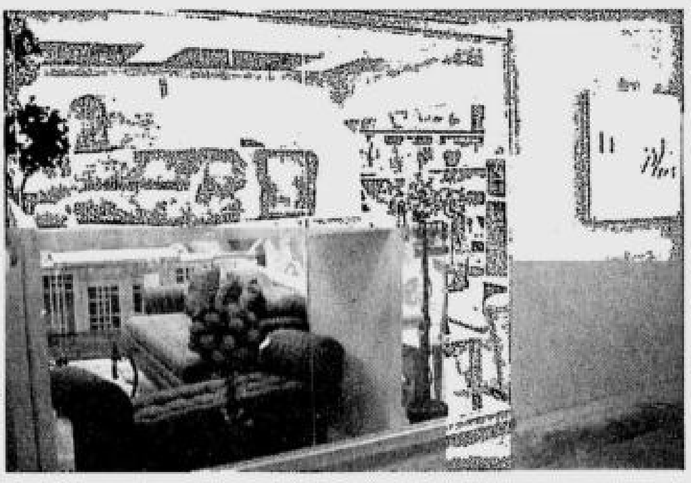
WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon will experience rains and gusty winds. Western sections of Luzon and Visayas will experience monsoon rains. Rest of Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will be cloudy with rains.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 23°
Baguio	Rains	HI 19°	Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Rains	HI 28°	Lo 25°
Laoag	Rains	HI 27°	Lo 24°
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28°	Lo 23°
Tagaytay	Rains	HI 29°	Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 24°
Calapan	Rains	HI 30°	Lo 23°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 25°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	HI 29°	Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30°	Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 24°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 25°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32°	Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31°	Lo 25°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/08/02/02



Homeplus opened its new store at Metropoint-Taft Avenue last July 27, 2002. The store displays a selection of living room sets, beds & tables. It's where you can enjoy home furnishings of different styles at affordable prices.

Homeplus, Furniture by Abenson, Opens in Metropoint Mall Taft

The newest Homeplus store recently opened at the 4th level of Metropoint Mall along Taft Ave. At present, Homeplus has 24 showrooms: **Laguna** (Waltermart Calamba, San Pablo, Sta. Rosa & Biñan), **Cavite** (Waltermart Imus, Dasmariñas, Ger. Trias, Lotus, Carmona), **E. Rodriguez, Quezon City, Sta. Lucia, Rustan's Cubao, Galleria, Shangri-La, Metropolis, Muntinlupa, Las Piñas, Alabang, Pearl Plaza, Riverbanks, Fairview, and Circle C Congressional.**

Enjoy stylish furniture pieces at super value prices. Visit a Homeplus store now and experience the joy of home furnishings!

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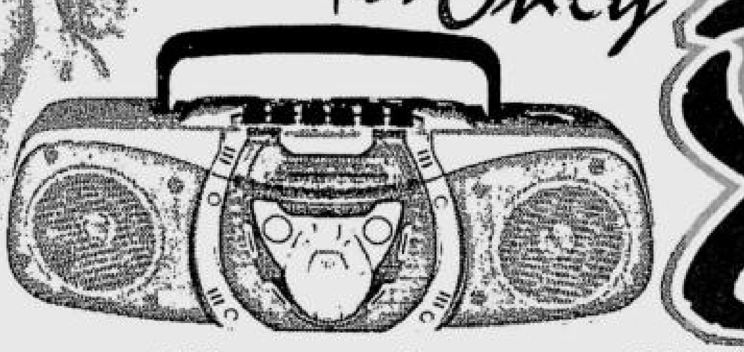

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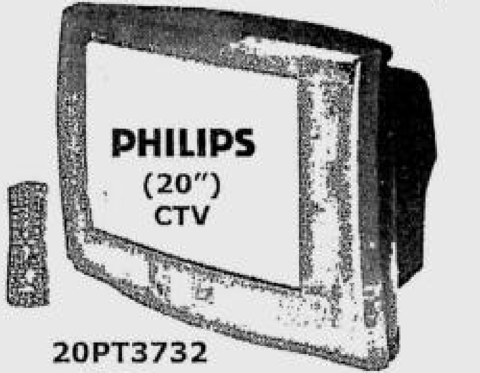

20PT3732
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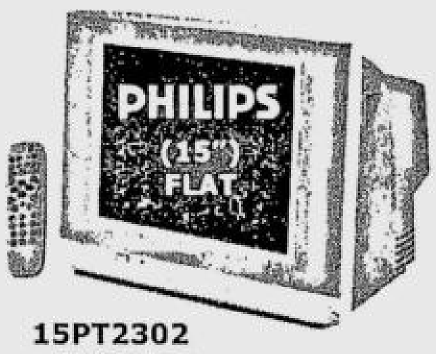
- Black Matrix CRT

Price **P10,998**



15PT2302
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- 181-Channel

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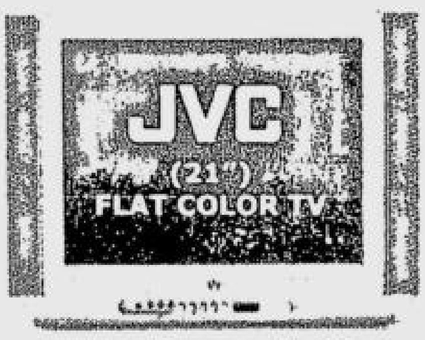

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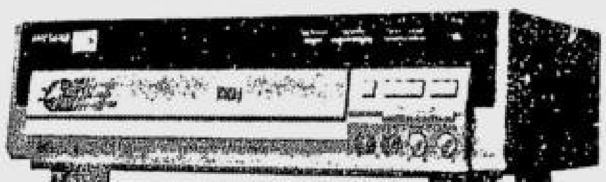

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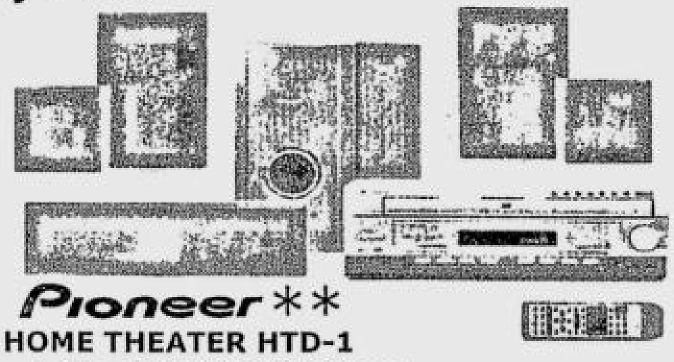

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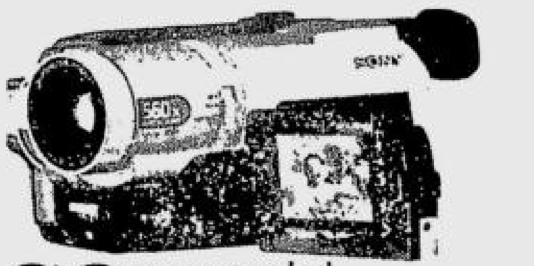

SONY**

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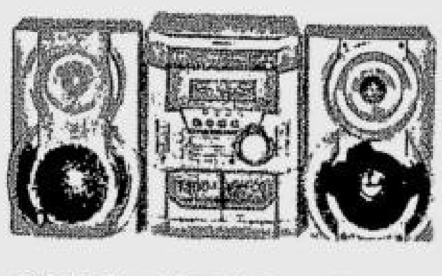

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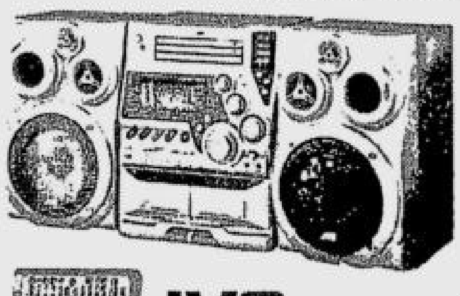

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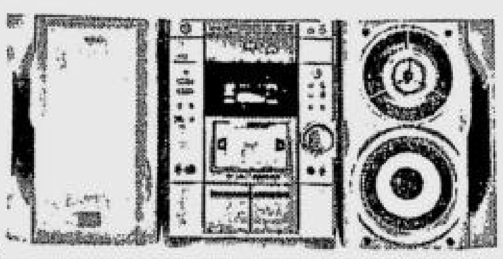

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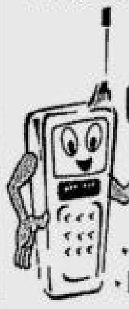

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CMG 2002 Premier Producers' Circle

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Presenting the 2002 Premier Producers' Circle. Commendable Sales Associates and Unit Managers who believed in the vision of a secured life for Filipinos. Top agents who exceeded sales records and assured the future of more and more people. For accomplishing this mission, they will achieve the recognition befitting their performance. An all-expense-paid three-day vacation in Panglao Island, Bohol, trophies and cash incentives. Truly, a nice pat on the back for a job well-done.

To the 2002 Premier Producers' Circle, we commend you for believing in yourselves.

We salute you for achieving your goals.

Messages

EDUARDO MALINIS
Commisioner
Office of the Insurance Comm.

My warmest salutations to CMG and its 2002 Premier Producers' Circle.

The Financial Services industry continues to reach higher grounds. Thanks to the efforts of an admirable company like CMG of Australia and its dedicated men and women who continue to bring security to more Filipinos despite all obstacles. Clearly, your achievements speak of your determination to serve and your desire to assure the bright future of our fellowmen. May your achievements inspire others to accomplish their goals, too.

To all of you, congratulations and more power!

SHANE MCNALLY
President
CMG of Australia

I can cite a hundred or more reasons for not succeeding in the financial services industry. Examples include, "the economy is not doing well" or "people just haven't got the money to spend these days".

However, I never seem to hear these messages from the cadre of men and women who comprise our top agents. These agents seem to take the ups and downs of the economy in their stride, or indeed as yet another challenge to overcome and surmount. The difference seems to lie in the extent of their inner self-belief and confidence which allows them to prosper and grow in difficult situations, and to make best use of those circumstances when "fortune smiles upon them".

It seems that if one believes that these obstacles are not that insurmountable, then half of the battle is won. And if one achieves the goals he sets for himself, then the battle is won completely.

Today, I commend CMG's very own "Believers and Achievers". The 2002 Premier Produ rs' Circle. Extraordinary men and wome ho believed in their capabilities and achie greater heights in their careers. You have en yourselves and have shown others that re are a million or more reasons to succ n this business.

To the 2002 Premier Producers' Cir our hats off to you. You believed, the e, you achieved!

BAMBI VILLAMOR
Vice President
Individual Sales

I extend my warmest congratulations to the 2002 Premier Pr rs' Circle.

You set out on a mission to exceed sales targets and you did it. end, you've helped turn your clients' vision into reality. A vis secured future. And to any sales agent, achieving that vision is cl he greatest achievement one can have. Because of your individual achie ents, you have proven your dedication to the craft and your passio r excellence.

To the Premier Producers' Circle, congratulations and keep up the goo ork!

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North Mindanao
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Aida Tan
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Cynthia Canizares
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Mary Grace delos Reyes
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Plan ahead. Get ahead.

[illegible]

'We are ready to get arrested'

From page A1

"We are ready to get arrested," Fr. Robert Reyes said of himself and his four fellow PeaceCamp organizers at a press conference yesterday at the Sanlakas office in Quezon City. "Our freedom to express our opinion on issues of national interest does not require us to secure a permit on this basic right (to join protest actions)."

Reyes, popularly known as the "running priest," pointed out that he was not the only one among the activists participating in today's protest actions who had been arrested and imprisoned.

"In fact, all of us already spent time in jail," he said.

PeaceCamp said it would hold a "People's March for Justice, Peace and Sovereignty" from the Department of Foreign Affairs to the US Embassy this morning.

Other militant groups like the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan had earlier announced plans to mount similar protest actions in time for Powell's visit.

EXPECT more confrontations between protesters and the police like this one in Mendiola on Thursday when US Secretary of State Colin Powell comes to town today.

ERIK ARAZAS

Baguio City

In Baguio City, lawyers belonging to the Free Legal Assistance Group (FLAG) yesterday said they would push for the exercise of basic civil rights as provided for in the Constitution, and pointed out that the exercise of these rights upheld the People Power revolts in 1986 and 2001.

"Malacañang's new directives to the police attack the very foundation of people power," said FLAG member Joris Karl Dacawi. "But the Supreme Court already ruled in favor of people power last year when it addressed a case filed by (ousted President Joseph) Estrada, who had questioned the process by which (Ms Macapagal) was brought to power."

The Cordillera Peoples Alliance (CPA) will hold a noise barrage today in Baguio even without a permit from City Hall, according to CPA chair Joan Carling.

The CPA has been able to obtain permits for its marches since People Power II, "and officials had not made it difficult for us so far," Carling said, adding:

"We welcome the initiative of the FLAG and other human rights lawyers because we are espousing a legitimate action, a legitimate goal and a legitimate right that is enshrined in the Constitution."

The party-list group Akbayan yesterday announced that it had filed a petition before the Supreme Court challenging the "soundness, validity and legality" of the President's order to suspend the maximum tolerance policy applied during rallies and other protest actions.

It said the President's order and the Philippine National Police's "no permit, no rally" rule "portend hostile confrontations between nationalist activists and police officers."

Heightened alert

PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. yesterday put the National Capital Region Police Office on heightened alert in preparation for the protest rallies.

"That's automatic," Ebdane told reporters. "We provide security and we go on heightened alert whenever there are foreign dignitaries visiting us."

He said the NCRPO had drawn up security measures, including deploying an undetermined number of civil disturbance management units, to prevent possible violence.

He warned members of militant groups that they would be rounded up and charged if they violate the PNP's "no permit, no rally" rule.

Ebdane, who attended the opening of the 2002 Defense and Sporting Arms Show at SM Megamall in Mandaluyong City, proposed that militant groups hold their rallies in "freedom parks" if they fail to secure a permit.

"In freedom parks, anybody can shout to his heart's content," he said. "As far as big demonstrations are concerned, they have to get a clearance from the local executives. We are always talking of rights. We have to respect the rights of others, too."

Ebdane also appealed to activist leaders to "police their own ranks."

"We don't want to see their leaders secretly leaving during the rally—that's an indication that trouble is about to start. The leaders should not leave. They should be responsible for their people," he said.

He also said the supposed plan of the PNP to build a large jail for demonstrators without permits was meant as a joke.

"I was asked about the groups' planned attacks on the US Embassy," Ebdane said. "So in jest I mentioned that there would be a need for a bigger jail because if that happens, there will be a violation of specific laws and we have to make mass arrests."

"Definitely," he added, "we don't have money for big jails."

Guiding principle

"The guiding principle for FLAG is that for as long as rallies are peaceful, these should be allowed," Dacawi said.

He said human rights advocates were preparing for extensive legal battles to uphold the Bill of Rights.

A member of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, who asked not to be named, said it was ironic that Powell was triggering a confrontation between the government and civil rights advocates.

"Powell is already controversial in the United States for fighting with the conservative government of US President George W. Bush over its anti-terrorism law," the lawyer told the INQUIRER. "That is why it is strange that a Democrat is making us very (edgy)."

But Dacawi said the fight was about the Philippines' untested civil rights movement. He said the Bill of Rights "supersedes any directive, even if it comes from Malacañang."

"The Bill of Rights defines what the ordinary citizen can do, and it includes free speech and the freedom to espouse his views," he said. "It does not bind the citizen to a permit to be granted with political considerations by any government."

Powell is scheduled to be in the Philippines today and tomorrow on the last leg of a tour of Southeast Asia. His schedule has been kept a tight secret.

Militant groups objecting to the growing military ties between the United States and the Philippines have vowed to follow Powell with street protests.

Smaller rallies have been held near the US Embassy this week, which, PNP Deputy Director General Reynaldo Velasco said, were intended to test police capabilities.

Bulldog

The other PeaceCamp organizers—Milette Morante of the Kilusan para sa Pambansang Demokrasya, Pedring Fadregon of the Kongreso ng Pagkakaisa ng Maralitang Lungsod, Choy Alvarez of the Bukluran ng Manggagawang Pilipino and Max de Mesa of the Task Force Detainees of the Philippines—said a figure of a bulldog symbolizing newly appointed Foreign Secretary Blas Ople would highlight its protest march.

"The administration has installed a pro-American watchdog who will assure the smooth execution of the Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement (MLSA) in the country. It could not have come up with a better welcome gift for Powell," PeaceCamp said.

In Cebu City, at least 100 Bayan members yesterday held a rally to protest Powell's visit.

They first gathered in front of Camp Lapulapu, headquarters of the Central Command, in Barangay Lahug. They then marched to the DFA regional office in Barangay Banilad, where a short program was held.

Bayan secretary general Teddy Casiño, who was at the rally, said they were also protesting the proposed MLSA and the alleged human rights violations committed by US troops during the recently concluded Balikatan 02-1.

Casiño assailed the administration for its "no permit, no rally" policy, and accused Ople and Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes of "railroading" the approval of the MLSA in time for Powell's arrival.

"It is getting obvious that the 'Gloria Express' is running over Congress and the public," Casiño said. "They are railroading the MLSA because they know fully well that it will not pass the criteria set forth by the Constitution and the principles of territorial integrity and sovereignty." ***With reports from Jolene R. Bulambot, PDI Visayas Bureau; AFP***

Balikatan structures, not MLSA, Golez clarifies

From page A1

City and Basilan under Balikatan 02-1. Those structures are not envisioned and covered by the MLSA," Golez said.

"I'm terribly disappointed. I was misquoted," Golez told the INQUIRER over the phone.

He said he spoke about the airstrip, roads and other structures that US Navy engineers built in Basilan "as a way of defining what permanent structures are."

"But these are not provided for under the MLSA. There's absolutely no permanent structures, absolutely no basing rights (in the agreement)," he said.

Golez said he would be satisfied if the INQUIRER clarified its story.

"I don't want to make a big thing out of it. It's just that the public may misinterpret (the MLSA)," Golez said.

But an INQUIRER reporter who wrote the INQUIRER story said Golez specifically mentioned the structures that American forces could construct in the country under the proposed MLSA.

The INQUIRER reporter said Golez talked about the structures when asked on Wednesday by reporters from Today and from the Manila Standard about the revisions to the proposed MLSA.

The reporters also asked Golez to explain the revisions suggested by Vice President Teofisto Guingona.

Golez said that the revisions to the MLSA suggested by Guingona mostly addressed the definition of terms.

"For example, Guingona suggested that the word 'construction' not be subject to misinterpretation," the national security adviser said.

"Some fear that once the Americans build permanent facilities here, the presence of the US troops will become permanent," Golez told reporters. "That is not the case."

Asked what these permanent facilities were, Golez said the Americans would be allowed to construct structures such as military barracks, roads, helipads and runways.

But these permanent facilities will eventually be turned over to the Philippine government, according to Golez.

"When you say construction, it is as if it is permanent. Actually it is not because the moment you turn the facility over to the Philippines, it's no longer a US facility," he said.

"The Americans will be the ones to spend for and construct these permanent facilities and infrastructure like the military barracks, paved roads, helipad and runways but these will be turned over to the Philippine government," Golez said.

How temporary is temporary

Asked how temporary was temporary, Golez said US troops would build the permanent structures but use them only for "months."

But the Americans will use the facilities whenever they are in the country, according to Golez.

The INQUIRER reporter said Golez was aware that he was being asked on the "revisions" to the final text of the MLSA and not revisions to the Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA) or the Terms of Reference for the VFA because these documents had been signed already.

Golez said the five points raised by Guingona were considered but "not all were fully addressed."

At Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija, military officials yesterday said that US forces would be unable to leave these structures and equipment for Filipino troops without the MLSA.

"It would be like what is happening in Zamboanga. If there is an MLSA, they can leave their equipment with us," Gen. Roy Cimatu, Armed Forces chief of staff, said at the headquarters of the 7th Infantry Division, which celebrated its 14th anniversary yesterday.

Lt. Col. Danilo Servando, chief of the AFP public information office, said the proposed MLSA would cover the turnover of structures that American troops would build during the course of their stay in the country.

"If we have the MLSA, that will be the authority of the Americans to leave the structures (that they have constructed) here," Servando said.

Asked if this would include the airport in Basilan, Servando said that that case was different as it was part of a "humanitarian" project of the US troops.

Servando and Cimatu said the MLSA would also cover the turnover of vehicles.

POOR CLARES MONAST
TABIAWAN (BATP COMPOUND
ISABELA, BASILAN PROVINCE
'S WAY TO

WHEN Balikatan was at its peak, soldiers in full battle gear like this member of the US Special Forces were familiar sights.

VAL HANDUMON

Powell here in the wee small hours

From page A1

they have been planning assiduously to protest.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell is due to arrive here today in the wee small hours of the morning. Which is probably another security precaution.

Powell's Air Force plane was scheduled to touch down at the Balagbag Field of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport at 2 a.m. this morning.

Police have secured the entrance and exits to the airport. Anti-riot squads were also deployed at the airport to block demonstrators who are protesting the continued presence of US troops in the country even after the Balikatan war games officially ended last Wednesday.

Secret service agents have coordinated with the Manila International Airport Administration to ensure the safety of Powell and his official party.

Airport security intensified yesterday with bomb-sniffing dogs on the prowl through the premises. Secret service agents and local police maintained high visibility.

Members of the media were asked to distance themselves from Powell's plane upon his arrival. On deplaning, Powell would be immediately led to US Embassy vehicles parked at the airport tarmac and whisked to the embassy's VIP quarters.

There is no scheduled press briefing at the airport.

SC orders gov't . . .

From page A1

On Sept. 20, taxi driver Filemon Serrano will be executed by injection for raping his 13-year-old daughter.

A second convicted rapist, Alfredo Nardo, will face lethal injection on Oct. 16.

Seven convicts were executed in 1999, but then President Joseph Estrada ordered an indefinite freeze following pressure from human rights groups ar[illegible] the Church.

Estrada w[illegible]pled in a popular uprisin[illegible]awned by growing corrupt[illegible]candals last year. ***AFP***

National Artist Arcellana dies at 85

From page A1

poker game, on top as though it were always morning, in control with everything going for him," Arcellana said in a 1969 lecture.

His daughter-in-law Lydia Arcellana, a professor of English at the University of the Philippines, said he had lost his will to live because of his old age, causing his resistance to break down.

Arcellana was taken on June 30 to the National Kidney and Transplant Institute, where he was treated for pneumonia. But his condition worsened, and he died of multiple organ failure in his room at the Quezon City hospital.

President Corazon Aquino proclaimed Arcellana National Artist for Literature in 1990. The citation described him as "one of the most important progenitors of the modern Filipino short story in English" and as one who "pioneered the development of the short story as a lyrical expression."

It also extolled him as "a brilliant craftsman" who "built a body of works that are now an indispensable part of tertiary-level syllabi all over the country."

His work has been translated into Malaysian, Italian, German and Russian.

Arcellana had a long and fruitful relationship with the UP, where he was recognized as an influential teacher.

He began teaching at the UP Department of English and Comparative Literature in 1953 and eventually became professor VII. He was named professor emeritus in 1983 and, in 1989, received UP's highest honor, a doctorate in humane letters, *honoris causa*.

Arcellana also chaired the first UP National Writers Workshop in 1965. In 1979 he was founding director of the UP Creative Writing Center (CWC), of which he remained director until 1982.

4th of 18

Zacarias Eugenio Francisco Quino Arcellana was born on Sept. 6, 1916, in Santa Cruz, Manila. He was the fourth child in the brood of 18 of Jose Cabaneiro Arcellana and Epifania Quino.

He published his first short story, "The Man Who Would Be Poe," while still a 16-year-old student at the Manila West (later Torres) High School. He would edit Expression, a quarterly journal of experimental writing, two years later.

Arcellana began his stay at UP in 1932 as a pre-medicine student, but changed academic directions and completed a degree in philosophy in 1939.

His short fiction would be recognized as among the best in the country. Among his most famous stories are "Divide By Two," "Trilogy of the Turtles," "The Mats," "The Wing of Madness: I" and "The Flowers of May."

Arcellana was also involved in journalism, as staffwriter of the Woman's World, columnist of the Herald Midweek Magazine, copy editor of the Acta Medica Philippina, editor of the Philcross, bureau manager of the International News Service's Manila bureau, literary editor of the Manila Chronicle's This Week supplement, and adviser of the UP's Philippine Collegian.

He received the Don Carlos Palanca Memorial Award for Literature, Philippines Free Press Literary Award, First Art Association of the Philippines Award in criticism, Patnubay ng Kalinangan Award for Literature from the City of Manila, and Gawad Pambansang Alagad ni Balagtas for English fiction from the Writers' Union of the Philippines.

He held as well a Smith-Mundt Grant for teaching creative writing. In 1956, he was a Rockefeller Foundation Fellow in Creative Writing at the University of Iowa and Breadloaf Writers Conference.

He also held the Brig. Gen. Hans Menzi Professorial Chair in Creative Writing.

Craftsmanship

UP CWC director Virgilio Almario said Arcellana would be remembered "for his intense desire to master the language, (to come) out with the most polished story or work."

"He really valued craftsmanship," Almario said, adding that beyond the writing, Arcellana would be "best remembered as a very good mentor, person and teacher" who was "loved by all his students."

UP Press director Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo noted that it would be "almost impossible to disassociate Franz from Philippine literature in English."

"He was so influential to many writers of his generation and after," Hidalgo said. "He revived writing in UP and remained a moving force for writing in the university."

Arcellana left behind his wife Emerenciana Yuvienco-Arcellana, their six children, among them awarded writer Juan Eugenio "Juaniyo" Arcellana, and grandchildren.

His body will lie in state starting today at the Delaney Hall of the Parish of the Holy Sacrifice in UP Diliman.

The UP CWC will hold a tribute in his memory on Aug. 16 at the UP Main Library. ***With a report from Agnes E. Donato***

ARCELLANA: As though it were always morning.

2 storms spotted off Northern Luzon

TWO weather disturbances have been spotted off Northern Luzon and weathermen said these would induce monsoon rains over Metro Manila, the western sections of Luzon and the Visayas.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) said tropical depression "Lagalag" was spotted 270 km east southeast of Aparri, Cagayan, with strongest sustained winds of 55 kph near the center. It is moving west northwest slowly.

"Lagalag" is forecast to be 180 km east of Aparri, Cagayan, this afternoon.

Another low pressure area was estimated off the coast of Aparri, Cagayan.

Pagasa said the two weather disturbances will induce monsoon rains over the western sections of Luzon and Visayas. Monsoon rains and thunderstorms will be experienced in Manila.

Public Storm Signal No. 1 has been hoisted over Calayan and Babuyan Islands, Isabela, Quirino, Aurora, Polillo Island, Nueva Vizcaya, Ifugao, Mt. Province, Ifugao, Kalinga, Abra, Ilocos provinces and Batanes. ***Gerald G. Lacuarta***

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UAAP ACTION

Warriors shock Eagles; Tigers tame Tamaraws

STANDINGS	W	L
La Salle	4	0
Ateneo	3	2
UST	3	2
UE	3	2
Adamson	2	2
UP	2	2
FEU	1	4
NU	0	4

GAMES TOMORROW
(Makati Coliseum)
2 p.m.—UP vs La Salle
4 p.m.—FEU vs UE

By Dennis U. Eroa

UNIVERSITY of the East extended Ateneo's misery with a shocking 76-73 victory, while University of Santo Tomas leaned on Alwyn Espiritu's outstanding plays to trim Far Eastern University, 85-80, yesterday in the UAAP basketball tournament.

The overflowing Rizal Memorial Coliseum crowd erupted in unison when little-known Rollie Masbang came from nowhere to follow-up a shot by Jay-Ar Estrada and give the Red Warriors the breather, 75-71, in the closely-fought match.

Ateneo tasted its second straight loss after a 3-0 start. The Blue Eagles, who also lost to the University of the Philippines Maroons, 53-49, last Sunday, now share second place with the Red Warriors and the Growling Tigers with identical 3-2 cards. The Tamaraws dropped to 1-4.

La Salle, which is seeking its fifth straight crown, is safely on top with four straight victories.

The 6-foot-5 Espiritu rocked FEU's defense with his variety of moves underneath the basket as UST finally checked its last-minute collapse. A native of Bulacan, Bulacan, Espiritu fired 25 points on top of seven rebounds and three assists, a performance which proved too hot to handle for the Tamaraws.

"Ateneo's stronger than UE. This is a case of hardwork winning over talent," said UE mentor Boysie Zamar. "We learned a lot from the victory of UP."

The smooth-playing Red Warriors were always a step ahead of the Blue Eagles, who played hot and cold all throughout. Ateneo's defense also proved sloppy as the Eagles looked content in shadowing, not harassing their respective men.

Playmaker Paul Artadi, who had 16 points and eight assists, kept the UE offensive machine going, while James Yap, Arnold Booker, Jhayson Alminario, Ronald Tubid and Estrada also scored crucial baskets.

Booker exposed Ateneo's problem in transition when he had six straight points, even as Yap and Tubid, left open by their defenders in the baseline, slammed the ball for a 71-67 UE lead, 3:37 remaining.

Two free throws by Enrico Villanueva put Ateneo to within two, 75-73, but Artadi grabbed the ball following a jumpball, leading to wild celebration in the stands by UE fans.

Yap pegged the final score with a split and Rich Alvarez's desperation triple was short as the buzzer sounded.

UST mentor Aric del Rosario praised Espiritu for his showing. "I told him before the conference to expect playing 40 minutes a game. He will play a big role in our campaign, with the others supporting him."

Jimino Manansala, Cyrus Baguio and Christian Luanzon also finished in double figures as the Tigers survived atrocious free throw shooting in the homestretch to pull off the win.

Scores:

UE 76—Artadi 16, Yap 17, Booker 9, Masbang 9, Canaleta 7, Estrada 7, Tubid 5, Omiping 4, Butel 2, Alminario 1, Hubalde 0.

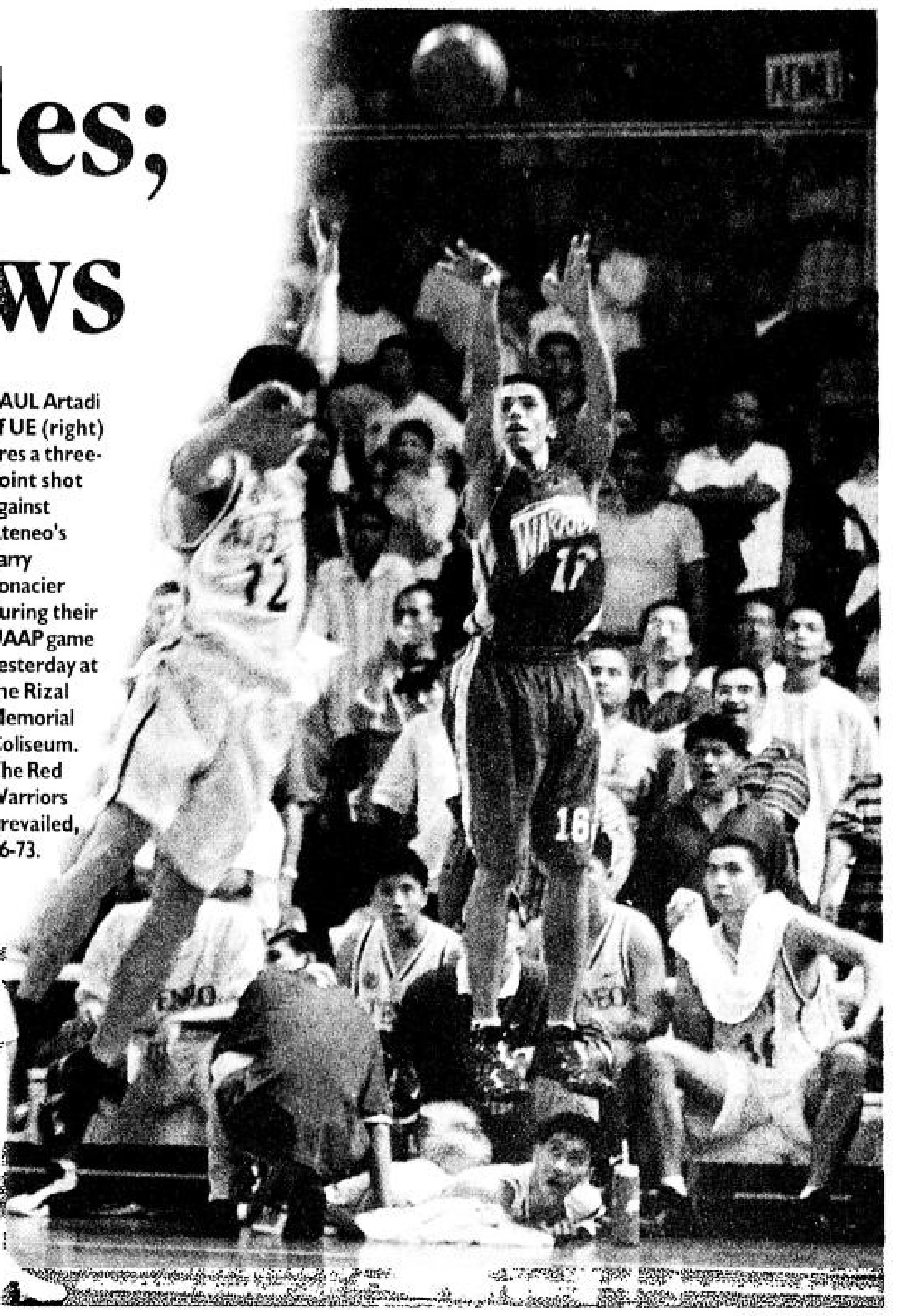
ATENEO 73—Villanueva 18, Fonacier 17, Tenorio 10, Alvarez 10, Chia 6, Elmido 4, Del Rosario 2, Gonzales 2, Tadeo 2, Quimpo 1, Cruz 1, Intal 0.

Quarters: 22-17, 41-35, 56-56, 76-73.

UST 85—Espiritu 25, Baguio 18, Luanzon 11, Manansala 11, Vizcarra 7, Gelig 4, Hubalde 2, De Guzman 2, Villamin 2, Raterta 2, Del Rosario 1.

FEU 80—Isip 17, Sinco 13, Santos 12, Jones 11, Miranda 10, Yabut 6, Rizada 5, Garcia 3, Cutler 3, Zablan 1, Razon 0.

Quarters: 19-28, 34-41, 60-60, 85-80.



PAUL Artadi of UE (right) fires a three-point shot against Ateneo's Larry Fonacier during their UAAP game yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum. The Red Warriors prevailed, 76-73.

ERNIE SARMIENTO

Ex-Warrior star dies of cancer

SAN FRANCISCO—Phil Smith, a former basketball star who won an NBA championship with the Golden State Warriors, has died of bone marrow cancer. He was 50.

Smith, diagnosed with multiple myeloma in 1998, died Monday night at Palomar Medical Center in Escondido, California, a spokesman for the university said. Smith had undergone difficult treatments for cancer and resulting kidney problems in recent years.

"He was a wonderful man who succeeded in almost everything he did in his life," said Al Attles, who coached Smith on the Warriors' 1975 championship team. *AP*

St. Benilde meets PCU, eyes 1st round sweep

Standings	W	L		W	L
St. Benilde	6	0	Jose Rizal	2	3
PCU	5	1	Mapua	2	3
Letran	3	2	UPHR	1	5
SSC	3	2	San Beda	0	6

GAMES TODAY
(Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
8:30 a.m.—St. Benilde vs PCU (jrs/srs)
11:30 a.m.—Mapua vs SSC (jrs/srs)
4 p.m.—Letran vs JRU (srs/jrs)

By June Navarro

COLLEGE of St. Benilde goes for a first-round sweep as it battles second-running Philippine Christian University today in the NCAA basketball tournament at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Unbeaten in six starts, the Blazers try to seal their dominance in the eight-team tourney starting at 10 a.m. against the Dolphins, who, surprisingly, are experiencing their best start since joining the league in 1996.

With pivotman Bernzon Franco, marksman Loreto Soriano, Jojo Roque, Leo Gaspi and playmaker Alwyn Ilagan doing wonders, the Dolphins have stunned their last five opponents to stay just a game behind the frontrunning Blazers at 5-1.

The Dolphins' mettle and character, however, will be tested to the hilt by the Blazers' deep bench composed of Sunday Salvacion, Al Magpayo, Jan Coching, Sonny Castro, Ronald Capati, and rookies Paolo Orbeta and Ernie Sagad.

Salvacion, a 6-foot-3 slasher who owns a torrid touch from the three-point range, is the league's leading scorer, averaging no less than 20 points per outing.

"Winning over these guys will be a tough task. They're on a roll too but I think we'll have a chance if we work doubly hard," said PCU coach Jimmy Mariano, whose troops beat the Blazers twice last season.

Defending champion San Sebastian College and Letran College, both toting 3-2 records, clash with separate rivals as they attempt to get close to the pacesetters.

The Stags meet the Mapua Cardinals at 2 p.m. while the Knights take on the Jose Rizal University Heavy Bombers at 4 p.m. before their junior counterparts go to battle to complete a heavy but exciting six-game bill.

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Spring spanks Taguig, posts 3rd straight victory

DEFENDING champion Spring Cooking Oil rolled back Forward Taguig, 94-87, Wednesday at the Lyceum gym to improve its record to 3-1 in the 4th Danny Espiritu Invitational Open Cup basketball tournament.

Joel Co led four other players in double figures as the Spring cagers, owned by national shooting champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, rolled to their third straight victory in the tourney sponsored by Spring Margarine, Morning Star Tours and Travel, Red Bull, Purefoods, Alaska, SMB, Coca-Cola, Ginebra San Miguel, Sta. Lucia Realty, FedEx, Shell and Talk N Text and supported by Milo and adidas.

Co fired 23 points while Mar Reyes, Carlo Espiritu, Braulio Lim and Rodel Manuel chipped in 13, 13, 11 and 10, respectively.

Co shot six triples to rally Spring from a 39-48 halftime deficit and hit a two-pointer in the last 56 seconds that sealed the victory.

Action resumes today at the Lyceum gym with Wangs Ball Club making its debut against Mayor Peewee Trinidad's Pasay team at 7 p.m. and Hartman Seigle seeking its fourth win against Homer Mercado Builders at 8:30.

The scores:

SPRING 94—Co 23, Reyes 13, Espiritu 13, Lim 11, Manuel 10, Ybanez 9, Del Castillo 5, Francisco 3, Garcia 3, Calacar 2, Martinez 2.

TAGUIG 87—Cahanding 24, Magsalin 21, Macanig 18, Victoria 14, Nuqui 6, Garo 2, Sulit 0, Santos 0.

Halftime: 39-48

Wrestling meet gets GMA boost

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo issued on July 30 Proclamation No. 226 "Declaring the period from Aug. 5-11 as the Philippine Wrestling Week," in conjunction with the country's hosting of the IV Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship at the Badminton Hall, Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Manila.

The president directed "all heads of departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, local government units, government-owned and controlled corporations and instrumentalities of the government, particularly of the Philippine Sports Commission to give full assistance to the Organizing Committee of the IV Southeast Asian Wrestling Championship."

The President noted that it is an opportune time to remind the Filipino people of its erstwhile strong tradition of indigenous wrestling, especially in the mountain provinces and Panay island, on the occasion of the championship.

During the opening rites of the championship sponsored by Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and Department of Tourism, Philippine Tourism Authority, Milo, Philippine Olympic Committee and Tiara Oriental, athletes of Philippine Indigenous Sports Savers Association Inc. (PIGSSAI) will demonstrate "dumog" or traditional Filipino wrestling.

RACING TIPS

At Santa Ana By Mr. 999

Race 1—1. Sacred Hall 2. Loose Cannon 3. Exchange Deal 4. Real Charm

Race 2—1. More Love 2. Flying Strike 3. Renegade

Race 3—1. Rain Check 2. Happy Return 3. Rising Fast 4. Pep Up 5. Al's Princess

Race 4—1. Lumiere 2. My Lady Ann 3. Jay O Jay 4. Super Star/Super Lady 5. Husay Na

Race 5—1. Hot Number 2. Samahan 3. D Greatest

Race 6—1. Pay Check 2. Cherry Lane 3. Mr. Lucas 4. Beautiful Task 5. Golden Quest

Race 7—1. Adam's Call/Nakagayak 2. Diabolo Don 3. Hotrod/Secret Currency 4. Precious Moment 5. Carolina Belle

Race 8—1. Siete de Marso 2. Speed Machine/Schumacher 3. Earl Gray 4. Hezabellagio 5. Ma Cherie

Race 9—1. Ready Aim Fire 2. Juan Marco 3. St. Emilion 4. Boy from Brazil 5. Denon 6. Victory Lap

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1995, Krissy Alina beat brother Perele, 7-6, 6-2, to win the unisex 10-under class plum in the Milo Junior Tennis Cup and Regional Workshop in Tanauan, Batangas. Also today in 1995, Reynaldo Pascua clocked 18 minutes, 35.80 seconds to rule the sixth leg of the North Star 5K in San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte.

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Manguiat

TENNIS: Tennis Masters (Toronto), Early Round Coverage Day #3 at 9 a.m. (r), Day #4 at 7 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: LPGA Giant Eagle Classic, First Round at 7 a.m. (delayed) on ESPN and 5 p.m. on Star Sports

PGA John Deere Classic at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. (r) on Star Sports

SIX DIGIT

9 2 8 8 1 3
(in exact order)

SUPERLOTTO 6/49

21 46 20 3 32 [illegible]

SUERTRES 6 8 4

PIÑOL AS MEDIATOR

Pacquiao-Elorde truce; Duterte wants fight

By Marc Anthony Reyes

WORLD boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and his manager Marty Elorde kissed and made up yesterday even as Gov. Manny Piñol of North Cotabato bared an offer to stage Pacquiao's next title defense in Davao City.

Pacquiao told the INQUIRER he would honor Elorde's contract until 2005, reiterating he never fired Elorde.

During a meeting brokered by Piñol at the Marco Polo Hotel in Davao, Pacquaio, the IBF light featherweight titlist, said he wanted to end the word war between Elorde and Rod Nazario, the champion's other manager.

Piñol announced that Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte has expressed willingness to stage Pacquiao's mandatory title defense against Thai Fahprakorb Rakkiatgym on Sept. 21. The fight could fetch Pacquiao no less than P8 million.

"I want to concentrate on my training," Pacquiao, speaking in Filipino, told the INQUIRER over the phone. "I hope everything will be back to normal because this team (Pacquiao, Elorde and Nazario) has been very successful. I don't want to see it crumble."

In Manila, however, Nazario said he could not believe the truce.

"It's impossible," Nazario told this writer over the phone. "Maybe you have been misled."

Nazario insisted that Pacquiao "knows that he signed the document sacking Elorde (as his business manager)." Pacquiao quoted Piñol as having told him, "Manny, be your own boss."

Elorde said he would now abandon his plan to sue Pacquaio "for illegal dismissal."

"I will resume my duties as Pacquiao's business manager and to make sure he knows what he's getting into," said Elorde, who claimed that Pacquiao didn't see the contracts of his last two title fights held in the United States. The contract for both fights was principally handled by Nazario.

Pacquiao will have a tuneup fight this month before he defends his crown, hopefully in September in Davao.

Turbo Chargers nip Kings

By June Navarro

GAMES TODAY (Philsports Arena)
5:05 p.m.—Sta. Lucia vs FedEX
7:05 p.m.—Coca Cola vs Alaska

SHELL Velocity pounced on Barangay Ginebra's erratic play to escape with a 72-71 win in the PBA Samsung Commissioner's Cup last night at the Philsports Arena.

Rookie Christian Calaguio shone while Tony Dela Cruz split his freethrows with 12.9 ticks left as the Turbo Chargers got away with their fourth win in eighth games.

Now tied with the Talk N Text Phone Pals, the Turbo Chargers need only one more victory to assure themselves of a quarterfinal slot.

The Turbo Chargers put the Kings' stint in the next round in peril as coach Cris Calilan's wards absorbed their fourth consecutive setback and dropped to 2-7.

Import Isaac Spencer bungled a golden opportunity for the Kings in the final 25 seconds when he bungled a shot that could somehow reversed their fate.

Johnny Jackson sparkled with 25 points and nine rebounds but it was Calaguio's tenacity down the stretch that spelled the difference for the Turbo Chargers.

Calaguio fed Jackson and Dela Cruz inside the shaded lane and drilled a jumper as the Turbo Chargers pulled away, 67-60, 4:45 remaining.

Scores:

SHELL 72—Jackson 25, Banks 17, Dela Cruz 10, Calaguio 9, Singson 8, Bacani 3, Del Rosario 0, Hrabak 0, Esplana 0.

GINEBRA 71—Spencer 18, Limpot 16, Davis 15, David 14, Caguioa 8, Valera 0, Wallkvist 0, Helterbrand 0.

Quarters: 17-15, 38-32, 55-50, 72-71.

RP cagers out

KUALA LUMPUR—Team Burlington Philippines suffered a shocking 77-59 loss to Thailand Thursday night and bowed out of contention in the third Seaba men's junior championship at the MABA gym here.

The second straight loss by the Filipinos put them out of the running for the two berths at stake to the ABC men's junior championship in Kuwait in December.

The Filipinos trailed by as many as 29 points in the fourth quarter, 76-47.

Roy Luarca

Welcoat Paints returns to PBL

WELCOAT Paints, one of the winningest teams that ever played in the Philippine Basketball League, announced its return to the PBL fold yesterday during the PBL Board meeting at the Makati Coliseum.

Team owners Raymond Yu and Terry Que said they appointed Leo Austria head coach. Austria was the former Shark Energy Drink coach.

"We missed basketball very much," said Que.

"It's a brand-new start for us, but we want to come up with the same competitive team that Welcoat is known for. And coach Leo Austria best fits the image of the team, being the other coach that has constantly beaten us in championship games," said Yu.

With Austria's departure, it was reported that Jing Ruiz will be appointed head coach of Shark.

Welcoat, then coached by Junel Baculi, was disbanded last year after dominating the PBL for years. Only Shark managed to snatch a couple of titles from the grip of Welcoat.

PACQUIAO (left), Elorde and Piñol during yesterday's meeting in Davao City. DENNIS PRINCIPE

August Fore! set Aug. 9

COUNTING a sportsfest for the disabled, a medical center for indigents and scholarship grants for the poor in the countryside as among its beneficiaries, the sixth staging of the August Fore! Invitational will be held on Aug. 9 at the Wack Wack west course in Mandaluyong.

Tee-off starts at 7:30 a.m. with no less than former President Fidel Ramos expected to grace the opening ceremonials.

The 18-hole tourney, an annual tribute to RI Past District Governor and current Monetary Board member Melito "Bimbo" Salazar, is a three-man team competition using the Stableford net of handicap system of scoring.

Portals and San Miguel Corp. are the major sponsors.

The event supports other projects such as the annual Rotarympics of the Rotary Club of Diliman Foundation and the Tib-ong Scholarship Foundation which is helping the less fortunate in Bacolod get education.

For particulars, call 435-1943 or 433-0782.

Aug. 11 duathlon focuses on run-bike-run at Alabang

FOCUS will be shifted to the run-bike-run variant of triathlon (swim-bike-run) as the Enervon-AAVA Duathlon Challenge gets underway on Aug. 11 in the posh Ayala Alabang Village, Muntinlupa City.

Jointly organized by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and the Ayala Alabang Village Association, the 6 Km run-27 Km bike-6 Km run event is the 2nd leg of the Trap's "Road to the 2nd Asian Duathlon Championships" program of nationwide duathlon events. Bidding for the right to host the 2nd ADC, which is set for Nov. 3, are the Clark Special Economic Zone and the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority.

Awaiting winners in the event sponsored by the Enervon, Speedo, Reliv Philippines with the support of the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee Sports For All Commission, are cash prizes worth P3,000, P2,000 and P1,000.

Bannering the national triathlon team are George Vilog and Anna Marissa "Popo" Nagtalon, and duathletes from Laguna, Cebu, Davao, Negros and Tarlac.

SPORTSWATCH

Manila's little leaguers bow to Guam

THE INTERNATIONAL Little League Association of Manila gave title favorite Guam a big scare early in the game before taking a 3-13 loss yesterday in the 2002 Asia Pacific Little League baseball tournament at the Rizal ballpark. The RP kids appeared ready to pull off an upset after exploding for three runs (Gico Almendras, Paolo Mallari and Blaine Denton) in the bottom of the second inning for a 3-1 lead. But the jubilation was short-lived as the Guamanians unloaded 8 runs in the next frame for an irreversible 9-3 margin. ILLAM-Philippines closed out its campaign with a 1-3, scoring its lone win—against New Zealand—on Thursday. *Jong Arcano*

Pasay hosts 3-cock derby tonight

ALL roads lead to the Pasay City Cockpit tonight as veteran derbyist Cito Manansala plays as host to an exciting 3-cock derby beginning at 7 p.m., with a total cash prize of P150,000 at stake. Aside from non-stop fights (seven to eight fights per hour), aficionados can also win valuable prizes in the raffle draw to be conducted the Casino Filipino—Parañaque. To be given away is the top prize of P20,000 and six P5,000 consolation prizes. "There is no such thing as moulting season here at Pasay Cockpit.

Dance athletes face biggest test

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

FIFTY Filipino dancesport athletes face their biggest test in many years when they do battle in three world-class competitions starting tomorrow, Aug. 3, at the 15th Singapore Lion City International Championships at the Raffles Ballroom Convention Center. The 50-member delegation will be campaigning abroad under the auspices of the Dance Sport Council of the Philippines, the only amateur body for dance recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

Anchoring its bid on veteran internationalist Edgar Borromeo and Ana Yango, the country's foremost exponents of amateur standard dancing, and amateur Latin Amercian top ranking couple Bong Marquez and Belinda Adora, the star-studded cast is likewise competing in the 2002 Nuvo International Championships in Jakarta on Aug. 7, and at the Japan International Superstars Championships in Tokyo on Aug. 8.

While DSCP dancers may match up poorly with their rivals who have too much experience, skill and talent in world-class competitions, their participation in this series of international jaunts is already something to crow about because the DSCP is just growing up compared to the other foreign dance organizations which have been there for ages.

"We are just a young organization," said DSCP president Becky Garcia, the "First Lady of Dancesport in the Philippines" who founded the council in 1996. "Still, we have made our presence felt in the dancesport scene. The Philippines is now highly ranked by the world's ruling body in the Latin category." Garcia, who also chairs the POC education and culture commission, is heading the national delegation which also included Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Tonet Lagdameo and Glo Alcala who will adjudicate the Jakarta tournament. They will also attend the general assembly of the International Dancesport Federation at the Conrad Hotel in Singapore.

While still on the subject of dancesport, also popularly known as ballroom dancing, DSCP officials are again warning the public and dancesport athletes to be wary of competitions organized by non-recognized associations. They must be careful with this group which is claiming to be the legitimate organization for dance in the Philippines. "This is false," said Garcia. "DSCP is the only body for amateur dancesport recognized by the POC. Any other group claiming otherwise is a fake. It's as simple as that."

WNCAA tomorrow at Philsports Arena

THE 33RD edition of the Women's National Collegiate Athletic Association unfurls tomorrow with host Assumption College of San Lorenzo-Makati leading the festivities at the Philsports Arena. Aside from Assumption College, the other schools entered are defending champion College of St. Benilde, runner-up Lyceum of the Philippines, Angelicum College, Chiang Kai Shek College, Colegio de San Lorenzo, De La Salle Zobel, Emilio Aguinaldo College, Miriam College, Rizal Technological University, Sienna College, St., Benedict College, St. Scholastica's College-Manila, St. Stephen High School and University of Assumption-Pampanga.

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Lina: Mayors already have 'awesome' powers

By Leila B. Salaverria

METRO MANILA mayors have enough "awesome" powers right now to handle the police forces in their areas, Interior and Local Government Secretary Joey Lina said on Wednesday.

"They have awesome powers," Lina said. "They have operational control and supervision over the police."

Lina was reacting to the clamor of Metro Manila mayors for the return to them of control and supervision over the police.

Lina pointed out that under the present setup, no police official can be appointed without the mayor's approval. The mayors can also discipline police officers by suspending them for 30 days or by withholding their salaries, he said.

LINA/ p. A26

LINA

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Fernando's relocation 'homes' do not exist, say urban poor

By Christian V. Esguerra and Tina Santos

THE HOMES where about 100,000 informal settlers would be relocated, as promised by the Metro Manila Development Authority head, do not exist, according to the urban poor themselves.

On Wednesday, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando had said that the displaced families would acquire new homes once they have been relocated and that the MMDA had already prepared relocation sites for them.

"The homes that he is talking about do not exist," said Ted Añana, assistant coordinator of the Urban Poor Associates (UPA).

"It's difficult to live in the desert," he added.

The UPA and other cause-oriented organizations raised a howl following reports that about 100,000 families stand to lose their houses once the government implements its multi-million flood-control projects.

Based on previous demolitions, informal settlers would most likely be moved to far areas such as Towerville and Bitungol in Bulacan and Kasiglahan Village 1 in Montalban, Rizal, the UPA officer said.

He said the areas have inadequate facilities and are not accessible, especially for those working or studying near the places in Metro Manila they have been forced to abandon.

He said about 70,000 families are expected to be displaced if the government proceeds with the P2.9-billion Taguig-Rizal road dike project.

Navotas, the National Housing Authority (NHA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), MMDA and the National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC) earlier signed a memorandum of agreement on the implementation of the of the P3.928-billion project.

Under the MOA, at least 127 families in Navotas, who depend on sea-related activities in Manila Bay for their livelihood, will be temporarily relocated within the coastal town and in the NHA-Vitas property in Tondo, Manila.

Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco said that as early as 1998, several families in the town have already been relocated to Towerville, San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

But Tiangco said that based on their study, only 20 families that will be affected are legitimate fishermen. He said they will be given temporary accommodations in relocation sites in Barangay Tanza, Navotas.

NHA General Manager Edgardo Pamintuan said the NHA would also provide technical assistance in the construction of halfway houses in Navotas for dislocated fishing families. Temporary resettlement sites are also being prepared for the affected informal settlers occupying river banks and creeks in Caloocan, Malabon and Valenzuela cities, he added.

BULAONG

Bulaong: No irregularity in arrest

By Philip C. Tubeza

NEWLY installed Western Police District Director Senior Supt. Pedro Bulaong yesterday said there was "no irregularity" in the arrest of the five Task Force Jericho members on Sunday.

"There is a presumption of regularity in police operations," Bulaong said. "There was no irregularity (that Sunday)."

The WPD had charged task force members SPO1 Jesus Acejo, PO2 Ricardo Luciano Jr. and Police Officers 1 Danilo Hamila, Fred Fara-on and Manolito Prado with robbery-extortion for allegedly demanding P10,000 for the release of suspected bookies Michelle del Mundo and Rosemarie R. Martinez.

P03 Bonifacio Abad, Del Mundo's father and a member of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group, filed a complaint against the five men before the WPD.

WPD policemen set a trap and arrested the suspects during the alleged payoff in front of Acejo's house in Sta. Ana, Manila.

But the task force members claimed their operation was legitimate and that they had been set up.

"When that (incident) happened, I was not yet the district head. I would like to emphasize that," Bulaong said.

NBI: Kintanar should clarify ties with Medel

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation (NBI) yesterday said former military intelligence chief retired Gen. Galileo Kintanar should formally clarify his relationship with Nida Blanca murder suspect Philip Medel Jr.

"This is what we should know," said NBI spokesperson Ricardo Diaz. "What is his relationship with Philip Medel?

"Witnesses (ex-Philippine Constabulary Maj. Pedro) Pates and Nilo Gonzaga said something about a master of damage control, damage control so that somebody's name would not be mentioned," Diaz said.

"*Bakit ba? Sino ba*? (Why all this? Who is being protected?) It would be best if he gives his (sworn) statement to the NBI," Diaz added.

Kintanar is a former chief of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp). His name was dragged into the Blanca murder case last year because he allegedly owns the apartment Medel rented in Quezon City.

"Whoever is saying these things should come out," Kintanar said in Filipino in a radio interview. "I have nothing to do with damage control or whatever."

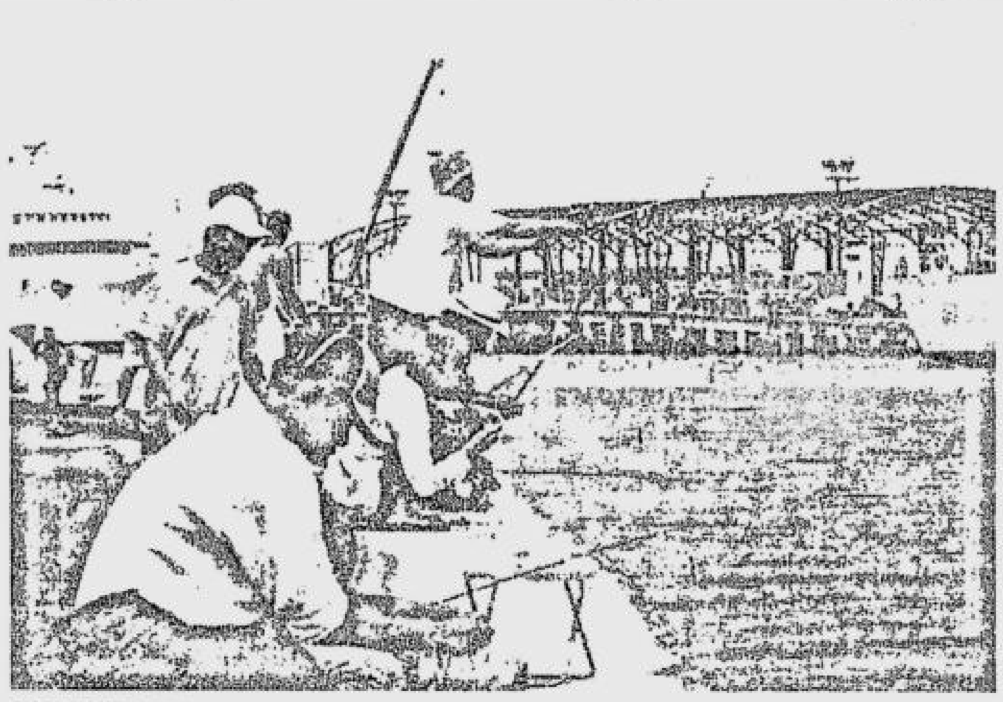
Kintanar said he did not personally know Strunk or Blanca, but he admitted he had met Medel in the course of his military work.

Medel had claimed he was an "asset" of Isafp and the Philippine National Police.

"I would like to qualify that word `asset,'" Kintanar said. "A person who gives (the Isafp) information is a friend. An asset is a friend. I know him (in that sense).

"But I'm wondering why I'm being linked (to the murder case) just because I know (Medel)," he added.

An NBI investigator had said Medel and Rod Lauren Strunk, Blanca's husband and a principal suspect in her killing, met in an apartment that Kintanar owns before the actress was murdered.



FISH HEADS
Serious fishermen and weekend enthusiasts take advantage of the break in the bad weather to fish in at the Manila Bay breakwater. JESS YUSON

Lina: Mayors already …

From p. A25

"These powers are short of directing the police," he said. "Very few powers are not in their possession. These powers are given to them by the present law."

Earlier, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza had said that the National Police Commission, which Lina also chairs, has a "strange" interpretation of President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive that control over the police be transferred back to the mayors.

The mayors themselves have been seeking the return to them of control over police.

Napolcom had explained to the mayors the powers they currently wield. Napolcom Vice Chair Rogelio Pureza had said the mayors could inspect, discipline, penalize, reassign, transfer or recommend the appointment of police officers.

Atienza, who is also the head of the Metro Manila Mayors League, said the Napolcom interpretation of the directive makes it seem like the local executives are the ones under police control.

He had said that complete control, including the capability to hire and fire police officers, must be given to the mayors.

Lina said that if the mayors are not content with their present powers over police, then they must change the law.

"If they want to have absolute control, they must amend the Constitution," Lina said. "We cannot violate the Constitution."

Lina himself had come under fire from Metro Manila mayors after he said that the mayors would be held responsible for the proliferation of illegal gambling in their town or city.

The Napolcom had suspended seven top police officials for their perceived failure to curb illegal gambling.

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Philippine basketball now a discordant tune

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

PHILIPPINE basketball absorbed a titanic shock in 1964 when the Indonesian national team beat our national squad.

The upset, which happened in the Yokohama basketball eliminations, caused the expulsion of the Philippine squad from the Tokyo Olympic tournament.

If memory serves, that debacle had led to a congressional probe.

RP team officials, left with no solid defense, were one in pointing to a certain Soni Hendrawan, now a successful trader in Jakarta, as the main culprit. The sweet-shooting Indon ran circles around his Pinoy guards and finished with something over 30 points.

The odd thing here was that when the same Indon squad paid a playing visit to the Visayas following that historic upset, it was soundly beaten by the Bacolod Murcia team.

Naturally, this helped firm up the popular suggestion that the shock dealt the Philippine team by Indonesia in Yokohama was freakish as a train accident.

***

Anyway, we had to double check Roy Luarca's modem feed from Malaysia earlier in the week after he reported that the Philippine Youth team had lost to Indonesia.

The event was the Southeast Asian Basketball Association Men's Junior championship in Kuala Lumpur, an event which the Philippines had been expected to dominate.

The 65-70 setback to the Indons may not indeed be as jarring as that one suffered by the Nationals coached by the late Tito Eduque in the Yokohama qualifier for the Olympic proper.

But, based on the feed from the Malaysian capital, the defeat suffered by the Filipino youngsters was anything but freakish.

There was mention of some hazy closing-minute calls but, on the whole, the setback appeared very legit.

***

This is being told to help bring into the open how sordidly the game of basketball has deteriorated in the Philippines.

There was no singular star like Soni Hendrawan to lead the Indon assault in that RP loss in KL.

What has become clear is this: The sorry state of basketball in the country, mainly wracked by divisiveness and crash commercialism, has reached a very alarming point.

Well, as Roy Luarca explained, the Philippine team could still go for the gold if it manages to sweep its remaining assignments in the preliminary round.

But that's beside the point. What's truly galling here is that a Philippine team losing to otherwise lowly rivals seems to have become all too normal in the region.

***

Look, before South Korea, or even China, would take great pride each time these Asian powerhouses would beat the Philippines.

It would be a source of great pride for the winners, as in the times Shin Dong Pa & Co. would fiercely mix it up with the likes of Ed Ocampo, Ciso Bernardo, Tembong Melencio and, a little later, Bobby Jaworski and Danny Florencio.

Indeed, because it managed to finish in the medal (bronze) in the 1998 Bangkok Asiad, the Philippines is ranked among the title contenders in the Busan Asian Games that starts late next month.

It did not, however, come as a surprise when, after the slow, uneven, often garish, progress in national team preparations, main backers of the RP National squad have stopped ranking it as a gold-medal potential.

PBA Commissioner Jun Bernardino, after having gone all out in trying to give the RP squad great preparation for the Asiad, said he would be content if the Nationals, composed of assorted pro standouts, won the bronze again.

***

I myself did not want to see the bad state of the national preparations for the Asian Games basketball tournament.

But I was left with no choice on Tuesday. I dropped by my friend's place, perched on a scenic swamp that also serves as a small bird and fish sanctuary in our community.

We had a couple of drinks, Torres 10, of course. Then, out of habit, he turned on his black-and-white television set.

It was a PBA playing day. I had looked forward to some refreshing action.

What I saw instead was the RP National team engaged in a drowsy duel with Purefoods, itself a badly beaten squad in the pro league.

The Nationals were predictably deficient. They had no mystique and instead opted for easy plays, like going solo or one-on-one, the patented style in the PBA.

If they were a music band, they were discordant, totally lacking in harmony mainly in offense.

One look and you could conclude that the Nationals, with their limited, flatfooted style, cannot dream of rampaging on even terms with the likes of China and Korea.

Anyway, the Nationals beat Purefoods, 69-65, but only because the Hotdogs were more deficient than hot.

This was confirmed later by National team coach Jong Uichico. He said he was not pleased with the victory.

"We're really finding it hard to score," he groaned to confirm the discordance.

METROBRIEFS

Bistek house burns

THE HOUSE of Quezon City Vice Mayor Herbert Bautista was gutted in a fire yesterday morning. SFO3 Dionisio Cabute of the Quezon City Fire District said the fire started at 5:38 a.m., destroying half the house in Capitol Park Subdivision, Barangay Commonwealth, Quezon City. Investigators said the fire started in front of the house where gas tanks and cans of paint were stored. No one was reported injured in the blaze. At that time, the only occupants of the house were Bautista's brother Hero, his wife, and their father Boots Bautista. Hero told investigators he woke up because of the smoke and he saw the front of the house already in flames. Firemen put out the fire after more than an hour. *Alcuin Papa*

Dead in Wack Wack

JAPANESE engineer Jinichi Akamine, who was said to be suffering from depression, jumped to his death in Mandaluyong City on Tuesday morning. Police said Akamine, 36, a native of Kyushu, Japan and a consultant of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica), was instantly killed when he jumped from the 10th floor of his apartment building in Barangay Wack Wack, Mandaluyong at about 6:30 a.m. and landed on the concrete parking lot of the complex. SPO3 Guillermo Boy of the Mandaluyong police said Akamine left a suicide note in Japanese, where he apologized to his wife, family and employers. Boy said he was still trying to determine whether there was foul play in the death of the Japanese.

Nelson Flores

Shooting in Cubao

JONATHAN Lazaro, 36, a watch repairman, shot himself in Quezon City on Wednesday. Lazaro's friend Mark Vallido, a confidential agent of the National Bureau of Investigation, said he he had been drinking with Lazaro in front of the latter's house in Cubao when, at about 9:30 p.m., Lazaro suddenly grabbed Vallido's CZ 9-mm pistol from the NBI agent's waist, pointed it to his mouth and pulled the trigger. *Alcuin Papa*

Suicide attempt

CHINESE student Anthomark Chan, 21, of Kimpo Village, Tandang Sora, Quezon City, tried to commit suicide in a hotel room in Caloocan City on Tuesday. Chan is still in critical condition at the Manila Central University Hospital after he cut both his wrists and throat, according to PO3 Arnel de Guzman. Witnesses told police that Chan and a certain Lovely Mendoza checked in at the Marshman Hotel on Rizal Avenue Extension corner 2nd Avenue, Grace Park at about 4:30 a.m. Witnesses said that minutes later, they saw Mendoza rushing out of the hotel. At around 4:45 a.m., roomboy Morris Cayabyab saw drops of blood in front of Chan's room on the third floor. When he checked the room, he found the student sprawled on the floor bleeding, PO3 De Guzman said.

Tina Santos

Robbed in Navotas

62-YEAR-OLD widow Lily Co, who owns a door hinge factory, was shot in the right leg by two men who also robbed her of P50,000 in cash and valuables in San Rafael Village, Navotas, police said. PO2 Noel Banares said Co and her grandson Edward were on board her green Toyota Revo (WJL 323), driven by family driver Ernesto Labutap. They were about to enter the gate of their house when the two men, riding on a Kawasaki motorcycle, blocked their path and ordered them to hand over their cash and other valuables. The robbers shot Co before they escaped.

Tina Santos

Bobby Garcia finally finds a musical for Jett Pangan

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE RADIO plug of "Tick Tick . . . Boom" on Citi Lite 88.3 says: "If you love 'Rent,' see the events in a musical that inspired it."

That should be a big come-on for people to watch Atlantis Productions' latest offering, "Tick, Tick . . . Boom." The musical hasn't made it to Broadway yet, but the man behind it, the late **Jonathan Larson**, produced one of the biggest hits in Broadway history, the Pulitzer Prize winning "Rent."

Larson died of aortic aneurysm in 1996 when he was only 36, when "Rent" was still being staged off-Broadway. He had no idea that the rock musical would become a Broadway phenomenon, earn critical acclaim as well as awards.

"Tick, Tick . . . Boom" is semi-autobiographical. It's a musical that tells of Larson's days as a struggling artist in New York's SoHo district.

Larson wrote "Tick, Tick . . . Boom" in 1990 when he was on the verge of turning 30 and faced with life-altering choices as he fought to keep his dreams.

"Tick, Tick . . . Boom" is running at the RCBC Auditorium in Makati, directed by **Bobby Garcia**. Bobby got the rights to "Tick, Tick . . . Boom," from the Larson family estate.

Victoria Leacock, Larson's first girlfriend, is Bobby's good friend. She was the one who approached Bobby for the off-Broadway production of the musical which debuted in July last year. **Lea Salonga** was Bobby's date during the gala night.

Larson's father, **Allan**, told Bobby to present "Tick, Tick . . . Boom" in Manila.

Early this year, while Atlantis Productions was staging "Proof," which starred Lea, Bobby received the contract for "Tick, Tick . . . Boom."

"The music is so beautiful," Bobby says. "It's about relationships that are about to end and it's about making choices. It conveys the message that no matter what our choices are, we have to live life to the fullest. It's a feel-good musical with no tragic ending."

"Tick, Tick . . . Boom" stars **Jett Pangan** in the lead as Larson's alter-ego, a waiter and struggling playwright who finds himself confronted by his inner demons when his first attempt at a musical turns out to be a failure.

Michael de Mesa plays John's buddy Mike, while **Bituin Escalante** is John's girlfriend. The two artists play other characters in John's life.

Bobby boasts that all three actors didn't need to audition for the musical. Michael and Bituin starred in Atlantis Productions' "Rent," which was staged twice in Manila and once in Singapore.

Michael also performed with Lea in "Proof" and in her Broadway concert at the PICC.

"I included Michael and Bituin in the cast not just because they're good singers but also because they're good actors," Bobby says. "The project is perfect for them."

Jett auditioned for "Rent" in Singapore, but Bobby didn't want to relegate him to supporting roles.

"I didn't have lead parts for Jett at that time, so I told him, 'I wish there'll be another musical where you can work with us.' I knew his capability."

RELENTLESS. Videogram Regulatory Board Chair Bong Revilla Jr. has the support of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

EDWIN BACASMAS

Bobby sent the tape of "Tick, Tick . . . Boom" to Jett. "Without hesitation, he said yes on the phone when I called him up even while he was driving," Bobby recalls.

Jett starred in **Soxy Topacio's** "Jesus Christ Superstar" for Peta.

"I've always wanted to do something with Jett," Bobby says. "Vocally, I know the songs in 'Tick, Tick . . . Boom' suit him."

If "Rent" produced the catchphrase "No day but today," Bobby says the message of "Tick, Tick . . . Boom" is in its final song, "Action Speaks Louder Than Words."

"Tick, Tick . . . Boom," which runs until Aug. 11, is the second theater project of Atlantis this year, following "Proof."

It will also be presented in Singapore this year.

In November, Atlantis will present the highly anticipated revival of "The Rocky Horror Show," where **Calvin Millado** is playing a transvestite. Also in the cast are **Anna Fegi**, Jett Pangan and **Aiza Seguerra** in a dual role as Eddie and Dr. Scott.

In the future, Bobby envisions **Martin Nievera** and **Zsa Zsa Padilla** in "The Last Five Years," which is about a couple whose marriage is about to fall apart.

Bobby has cast Bituin and Anna Fegi in another musical, "Dream Girls." He is also negotiating to get the rights to "The Graduate" and another Larson musical, "Superbia," which has yet to be released by the Larson estate.

Before the year ends, Atlantis will also stage "Rent The Concert," featuring the artists who starred in the local production of the hit musical.

Bobby says: "I don't see myself doing any other thing. At 17, I made a choice that this is going to be my life. This is what I love. I see myself doing this until I retire."

Bong against the world

NOT A few people have faulted new Videogram Regulatory Board (VRB) Chair **Bong Revilla Jr.** for launching an aggressive, high-profile anti-piracy crusade, which has the support of President **Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo**.

I have friends who also patronize pirated DVDs and make weekly trips to Quiapo to update their collection. They say they get very clear copies. They were mad at Bong for raiding Quiapo, and they even accused me of telling the VRB chair which places to raid.

I sometimes cringe when guys in the INQUIRER Sports section talk about their latest bogus acquisitions. One of the guys in the editorial room even bragged to me that his kids saw "Stuart Little 2" on a pirated VCD.

PANGAN. Star.

HIS CHOICE. Theater is the life and love of Bobby Garcia.

I myself support Bong's anti-piracy crusade not because he is a member of the entertainment industry, which I have been covering for more than a decade now. Even when I didn't personally know the former heads of the VRB, I have never bought fake discs. I simply am not satisfied with fakes.

Bong must have earned the ire not only of the video pirates but also of those who patronize fake discs because he has been doing a good job. And he has yielded positive results after only one month into his appointed position.

Last Wednesday morning, Bong rang me up on my mobile and said he wants to see the Philippines out of the list of countries which have become piracy centers in Asia.

"The Philippines is second to Malaysia," he said. "How can you attract foreign film producers or music companies to come here and invest if they know that their products will only be pirated? I'm also doing this for the industry."

But how can the government fight piracy when people continue to patronize pirated discs?

As it is, the number of piracy converts continues to grow by the day. Implementing the anti-fencing law should be made part of the VRB's anti-piracy crusade, so that buyers of pirated discs and tapes can also be penalized.

High on Abba

INQUIRER Sports editor **Al Mendoza**, who returned from a month-long vacation in the United States, is still high after watching the Broadway production of "Mamma Mia," the musical based on the hits of Abba.

Twenty-two Abba favorites have been woven into a love story which one critic hailed as "Abba-solutely fab!"

Al said that when "Dancing Queen" was performed, he wanted to get up and dance. At the end of the musical, the audience reacted with thunderous applause. Al said he stood up and shouted "Bravo!" as he clapped.

Al said that if I happen to be in Broadway this year, "Mamma Mia" is a must-see.

Aside from the very popular "Dancing Queen," the Abba songs in "Mamma Mia" include "Chiquitita," "I Have a Dream," "Knowing Me, Knowing You," "Lay All Your Love On Me," "Money, Money, Money," "Super

BOBBY/ p. A28

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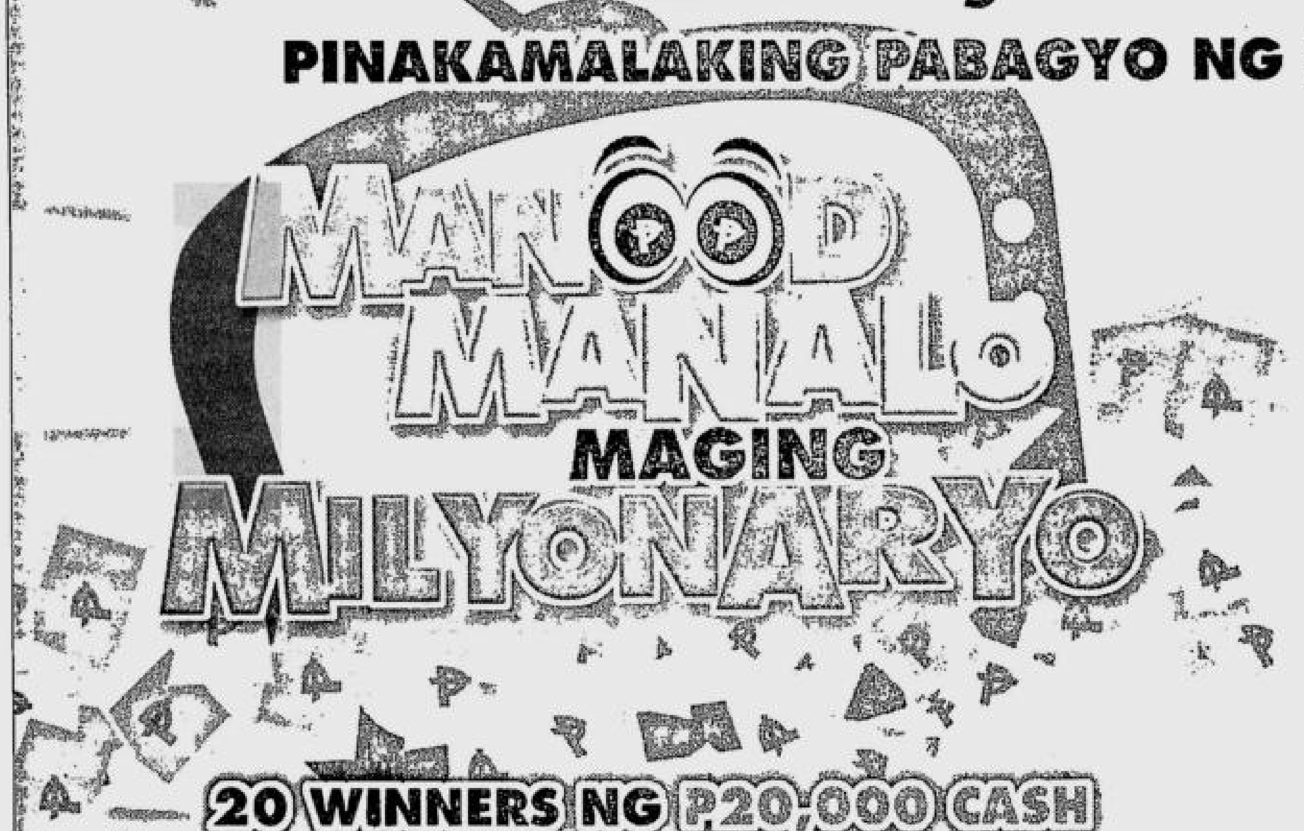

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VISAYAS • Tesoro, Leonila P.
Brgy Rizal jordan Guimaras, Iloilo

MINDANAO • Eulogio, Rosita
Ma-a People's Vill, Davao City

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NCR	
1. Naranja, Ma. Imelda	40A Kooks Rd Mendoza Vill Proj 8 QC
2. Duque, Myla M.	L46 Cluster O Bagong Nayon, Antipolo City
3. Aquino, Analiza P.	72 Ma. Dizon St. Gloria Heights Subd. Antipolo City
4. Reyes, Remir F.	6-D Malakas St. Pinyahan QC
5. Dino, Julian, Jr.	17 N. Domingo St. San Juan

LUZON	
1. Tamondong, Brixio G.	131 Brgy Malaca Orbiztondo, Pangasinan
2. Estrada, Ma. Luisa L.	265 San Gabriel Macabebe, Pampanga
3. Santos, Anvie Lyn L.	678 Luacan, Dinalupihan, Bataan
4. Natividad, Gertudes P.	72 Purok 1 Colo, Dinalupihan Bataan
5. Cortez, Esperanza A.	Buko St. Sto. Domingo Village, Mexico Pampanga

VISAYAS	
1. Torrevillas, Mechiel	2387 Inayagan Naga, Cebu
2. Dela Cruz, Mary Jean	B6 L13 Florvel Subd Buray Oton, Iloilo
3. Santillan, Pacita	52 Rizal St. Iloilo City
4. Caberte, Darlenn	Cameroli Ave. Bacolod City
5. Dela Cruz, Anna May	Brgy Bitaogan Passi City

MINDANAO	
1. Pancho Ma. Lourdes T.	Esperanza, Bacolod Lanao del Norte
2. Bedra, Jayzle M.	Ma-a People's Village Davao City
3. Pil, Merced G.	Blk2 Lot 16, Ph2 Roseville Subd. Lanang, Davao City
4. Cena, Juliet	Agora Mambato Lagusan, Cagayan de Oro City
5. Apuya, Gloria A.	Sta. Inez Malitbog Bukidnon

40 WINNERS NG NOKIA 5210 CELLPHONES!

NCR	
1. Guetullo, Marilou	203 Ampico St Balut Tondo Manila
2. Cutamona, Elvira	157 P Galauran St. 8th Ave. Grace Park Caloocan City
3. Bacalso, Erlinda S.	231 Primero de mayo St. Pasay City
4. Castillo, Evelyn D.	522 A. Mabini Quisao Pililla, Rizal
5. Dultra, Judith	L17 Jenny's Ave. Rosario Pasig City
6. Victorino, Elizabeth	5-A Interior P. Tecson St. Proj. 4 QC
7. Alcoy, Verginia A.	4887 Tmt 1, Old Sta. Mesa
8. Paldu, Wilfredo G.	2525 Onyx St. San Andres Bukid, Manila
9. Bahadia, Francia	11-C Lualhati St. Dona Damiana Rosario, Pasig City
10. Garcia, Cherry Rose V.	B12 L2 Ph1-B Kaunlaran Vill. Navotas

LUZON	
1. Policarpio, Evelyn T.	496 Phase 3C Bagong Silang Cutud Angeles City
2. De Asis, Dominador	Blk W Lot 10A Phase 3 Sta Lucia Resettlement Magalang Pampanga
3. Villena, Jerson C.	324 Urreza Subd. Wakas Bocaue Bulacan
4. Santiago, Marilyn	33 Pamumbunan Bagong Pagasa San Miguel Bulacan
5. Mendoza, Josefina M.	Dau Mabalacat Pampanga
6. Macalalad, Perla P.	No. 18 Salavante Urbiztondo Pangasinan
7. Pascual, Julieta B.	396 St. Gregory Ext. Buna Cerca Indang Cavite
8. Espano, Cristina G.	57 Pignagpalan St. Purok 4 New Cabalan Olongapo City
9. Calipon, Chona E.	59 Pinagpala St. New Cabalen Olongapo City
10. Vergel De Dios, Cherry Lou A.	280 Capihan San Rafael Bulacan

VISAYAS	
1. Cabidog, Adela S.	69 Santo Nino St. Lusad Dist VI, Dagami Leyte
2. Macalos, Adela	211 Valley View Vill. Mohon Talisay Cebu
3. Cortez, Arlene L.	31 Solangon San Juan Siquijor
4. Duenas, Loreta C.	V.P. La Graiza La Carlota City Negros Occidental
5. Baldos, Ariol C.	Barangay 12 Tumagingting Dolores E. Samar
6. Pedilo, Maria C.	Purok 3 Libacao Himamaylan City Negros Occidental
7. Solemne, Francisca V.	Barangay 74 Lower Nula Tula Tacloban City
8. Melendez, Grace D.	Block 23 Lot 18 Santa Filomena St MYL Subd Bngy Buhang Jaro Iloilo
9. Alarva, Maria Elena A.	17 Huervana, Railway St. Lapaz Iloilo City
10. Talacan, Corazon	Brgy Jamog Tigbauan Iloilo City

MINDANAO	
1. Daculos, Josie	Zone 6 Canitoan, Cagayan de Oro City
2. Uy, Alfonso, Jr	7 Coca Cola Vill Matina, Davao City
3. Saberon, Rizel	B3 L5 Dusnay Vill. Dumoy Toril, Davao City
4. Solatorio, Anastacia	503 Molave St. Pag-asa Lagao, Gen Santos City
5. Aliman, Joey S.	Ballener Compound, 99 V.P. Cabaguio Ave. Agdao Davao City
6. Uy, Doris D.	102 Cordillera St. Central Park Bangkal Davao City
7. Eroma, Monico	Don Basilio Navarro St. San Jopse Rd Zamboanga City
8. Balondro, Gina	195 Sto. Nino Agora Lapasan Cagayan de Oro City
9. Baul, Luisa	925-3 Padre Gomez St. Davao City
10. Colminas, Flaviana	Zone 2B Bayla Gen Santos City

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'WINDTALKERS'

From promising to so-so

By Ruben M. Cruz Jr.

REVIEW

AFTER September 11, Hollywood seems bent on bombarding the world's cinemas with more than their fair share of war movies and large doses of American patriotism.

In the last few months, we've seen Americans "fight the good fight" in Somalia in Ridley Scott's "Black Hawk Down," we've been with them to Kosovo in John Moore's "Behind Enemy Lines," revisited the Vietnam War in Randall Wallace's "We Were Soldiers" as well as World War II in Gregory Hoblit's "Hart's War."

"Windtalkers" takes us back to the Battle of Saipan in 1944. It's based on true accounts about the heroic contributions of the Navajo people to the American military efforts in World War II. In 1942, the US recruited Navajos to develop a secret code based on their language. The Navajo code was the only code the Japanese military was unable to decipher, and it was supposedly instrumental in many American victories during the war.

The 29 Navajo marines who developed the code were honored with congressional medals (most of them posthumously) in 1998, 56 years after their participation in the war.

CAGE

'The producers needed an A-list star for the film to make money, and Cage has to be the center of the story'

Compelling

"Windtalkers," which is what the Navajo code talkers were called, truly has a compelling tale to tell and it starts out promisingly enough. Director and film poet John Woo gives a nice entry point by showing the audience the pristine ruggedness of the valley where the Navajos live. We easily get a sense of the quiet dignity of the people as the main Navajo character, Ben Yahzee (Adam Beach), says his goodbyes with very few words.

He hugs his wife and son and shakes the hand of his father who bids him well. The smile on his face fades when he sees the bus full of his fellow Navajo recruits coming for him.

For a moment we become part of one of the saddest goodbyes imaginable, as Ben goes off to fight a war with his "white brothers." He's going away for months, maybe years. He might be saying goodbye for good.

Wasted

The following scene is another visual beauty. A butterfly flutters above a peaceful stream that gradually turns bloody from the corpse of a floating soldier. Instantly, the sentiment changes from serenity to dread as we realize the scene is in the midst of a chaotic battlefield.

Profound moments like these can come only when a filmmaker's sensitivity is matched by his artistic intelligence. Woo shoots the initial scenes with hardly any dialogue, but they carry the film more eloquently and more powerfully than all the gory explosions and blood splattering images associated with more formulaic fare.

Unfortunately, "Windtalkers" does descend into the level of formula right after these two scenes and it becomes nothing more than a wasted opportunity, a film that could have been so much better.

The point of departure from great to so-so occurs when the filmmakers choose to make "Windtalkers" a Nicolas Cage movie instead of the story of the Navajo code talkers.

Sure, there are still elements about the discrimination the Navajos faced from fellow soldiers, about their task of developing the code and what they did in Saipan, but these are relegated to being snippets of relevance, seemingly put in the film to complement its real focus: how Cage's character resolves his moral dilemma.

Rambo

Ironically, the Navajo characters have to play second fiddle in a film that is supposed to highlight their heroism. Whereas once the Navajo marines were victimized by racism, this time they fall by the wayside in favor of crass marketing. The producers needed an A-list star for the film to make money, and Cage has to be the center of the story.

Well, they could have at least made Cage's Sgt. Joe Enders a little more interesting. Enders is a war veteran whose whole platoon was killed in an ambush in the Solomon Islands. He lives tormented by the memory, and has become an aloof character who's developed a penchant for mercilessly mowing down the enemy with his machine gun. Of all the doggone stereotypes, we get Rambo!

He's assigned along with Christian Slater's Ox Anderson to serve as bodyguards to the Navajo code talkers, with the implicit instruction from their superiors to protect the code at all costs. It means that should the code talkers' capture by Japanese forces become imminent, the code talkers must be killed to prevent the code from falling into enemy hands.

The bill that authorized the awarding of congressional medals to the Navajo Marines reportedly mentioned such a kill order to protect the Navajo code, and the filmmakers obviously thought the idea would provide the perfect melodramatic stage for the film's conclusion.

Predictable

It's not entirely a bad idea but the film's poor screenplay masks nothing of the obvious. It never really makes us wonder what Enders and Anderson will do. And it's unable to generate enough sympathy in the characters for us to care.

Completing the cast of predictable characters are the resident bigot who gives the Navajos a hard time, the soldier who's yearning to see his girlfriend back home, the scared soldier, the crusty captain, and the nurse who falls for Enders and even writes him "Dear Joe" letters that are narrated over and over (a ridiculous role played by Frances O' Connor).

The soldiers are introduced to us in lulls between battles, but the information is hardly necessary because we know these guys from other war films. Heck, the actors playing them could have been interchangeable.

Humanistic

As for the Navajos—Ben Yahzee and Charlie Whitehorse (Roger Willie)—they're disappointingly painted as saints who can do no wrong. Their lives are nothing more than interludes to the big moments of their "white brothers" Cage and Slater.

The film's humanistic approach, its efforts to make us realize the nobility of sacrifice, may be well intended but it can never be fully realized because the battle scenes take precedence over the lives of the people at war.

The cinematography is very striking and has the feel of "Saving Private Ryan" or "Black Hawk Down." One expects no less from Woo. War movie buffs would certainly enjoy the film's in-your-face style. The action is suspenseful, intense and cinematic.

But those looking for more than blood, guts and gore in a war film, those looking for real stories of honor and heroism and the emotional and psychological experience of war would find the film wanting. The lesson is simple: If you want to tell a heartwarming war story, don't let the guns do the talking. It's a lesson often conveyed but hardly learned in Hollywood.

Bobby Garcia . . .

From p. A27

Trouper," "Take a Chance on Me," "Thank You for the Music," "The Name of the Game," "The Winner Takes It All" and "Voulez-Vous."

'DJ Nights' at Dish

TOMORROW night, August 3, Dish will launch "DJ Nights," which will be held every Saturday.

The party this weekend will be a reunion of people who used to frequent Stars, the posh Glorietta 4 night haunt owned by **EJ Litton.**

The music, the people, the DJs, the models and celebrities will all be there, said EJ, who now owns Dish with **Philip Cu-Unjieng** and **Rikki Dee.**

The party will be from midnight to 4 a.m.

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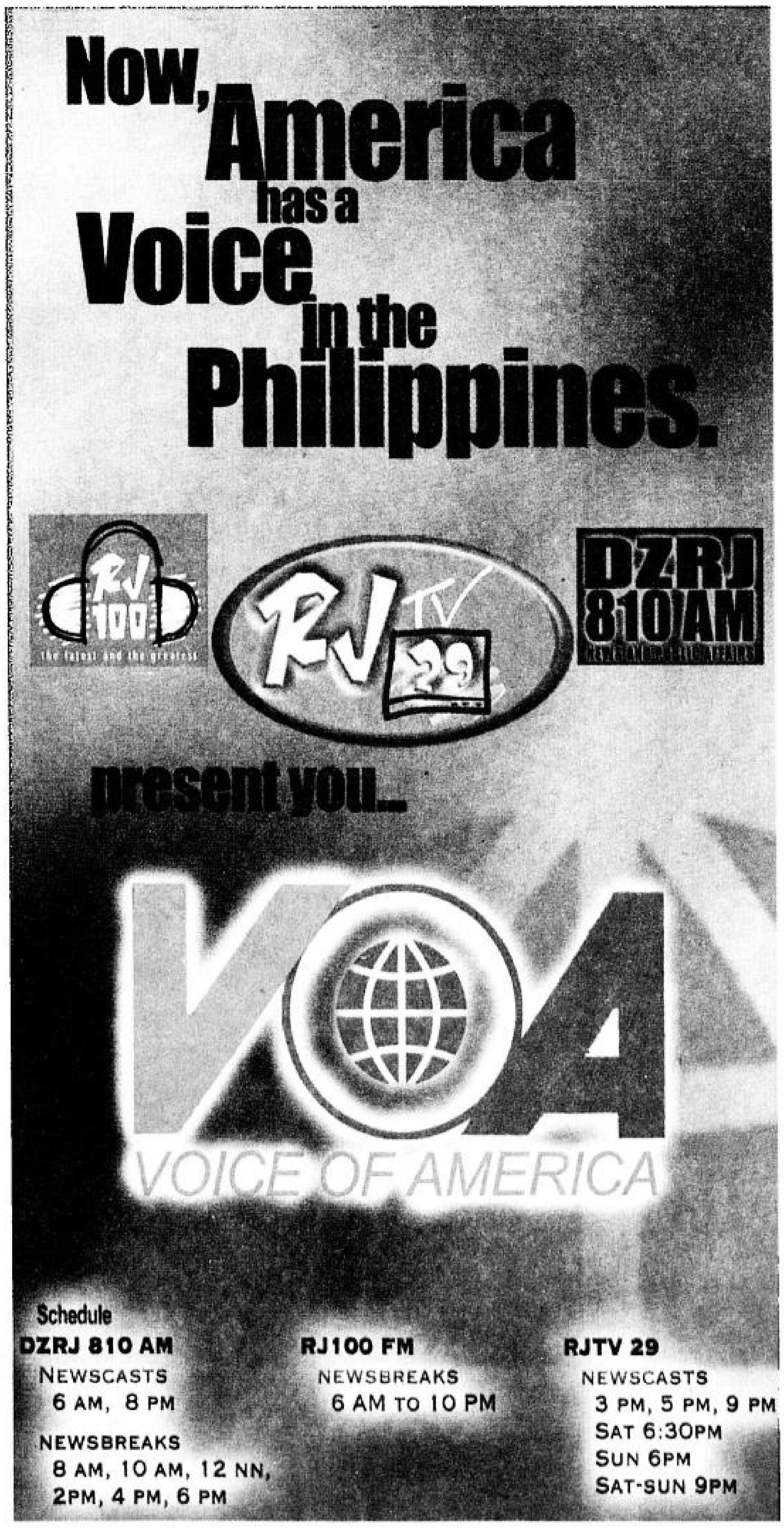

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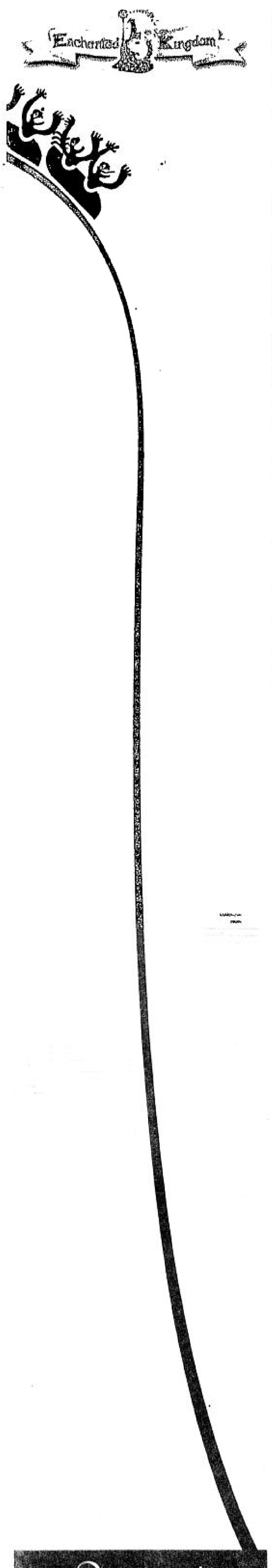

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Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	No. of Winners	Prize
1st Preliminary Draw - July 26	July 22	8 each in 8 areas, 36 in GMA	P 10,000.00
2nd Preliminary Draw - August 9	July 29	6 each in 8 areas, 27 in GMA	P 20,000.00
3rd Preliminary Draw - August 23	August 19	4 each in 8 areas, 18 in GMA	P 50,000.00
4th Preliminary Draw			
September 7 - Manila	September 2, 2002	14 Winners	P 100,000.00
September 8 - Cebu	September 2, 2002	2 Winners	P 100,000.00
		5 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		5 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 14 - Cabanatuan	September 9, 2002	4 Winners	P 100,000.00
		10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 15 - Davao	September 9, 2002	4 Winners	P 100,000.00
		10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator

Draw Dates	Deadline of Entries	No. of Winners	Prize
September 21 - Naga	September 16, 2002	4 Winners	P 100,000.00
		10 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		10 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator
September 22 - Bacolod	September 16, 2002	2 Winners	P 100,000.00
		5 Winners	21-inch Sony TV
		5 Winners	7-cu.ft. National Refrigerator

6. **The Grand Draw** will be held on October 12, 2002 in Magandang Tanghali Bayan (MTB).

A total of 20 winners will win P 1,000,000.00 each

GMA	8 winners	Visayas	3 winners
North Luzon	3 winners	Mindanao	3 winners
South Luzon	3 winners		

7. Deadline of entries is on September 30, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.
8. All prizes are tax-free.
9. The draws will be supervised by an authorized representative from the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD).
10. Employees of Nestlé Philippines, Inc., its advertising and promotional agencies, packaging suppliers, service contractors, relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are automatically disqualified from the promotion.
11. Promo period is from July 1 to October 12, 2002 at 4:00 p.m.
12. The organizer's decision in concurrence with the BFAD is FINAL.

See leaflets for details.

Per DOH-BFAD Permit No. 0541 Series of 2002

Book about singing for future recording artists

BUTCH Albarracin, founder and president of the Center for Pop Music Philippines, launches a book, "Talking About Singing," today in all National Bookstores and Goodwill Bookstores in Metro Manila.

Written in one-liner style, "Talking About Singing" features rich insights and practical lessons designed for music enthusiasts like beginners, hobbyists, singing contestants, professional singers, future singing stars and emcees.

Albarracin said the book tackles common problems and mistakes in singing, dealing with nervousness and shyness, understanding the audience, tips for future recording artists and many others."

His products include singing stars Roselle Nava, Dessa, Geneva Cruz, Cooky Chua, Ima Castro, Kyla, and four "Miss Saigon" actresses.

Others took another route to stardom such as Donita Rose, Assunta de Rossi, Alessandra de Rossi, Maricar de Mesa and Rufa Mae Quinto.

Published by the Center for Pop Music Philippines, the book is also available at CPMP Head Office at 73 Ermin Garcia st., Cubao, Quezon City. Call 723-9373 or 727-5293 or 411-7310.

'Coffee Talk' on ANC

"COFFEE Talk" features Bench model Robby Mananquil. Whether fully clad in flashy designer wear or dressed down to a pair of tatty jeans, Robby is a certified eye-catcher.

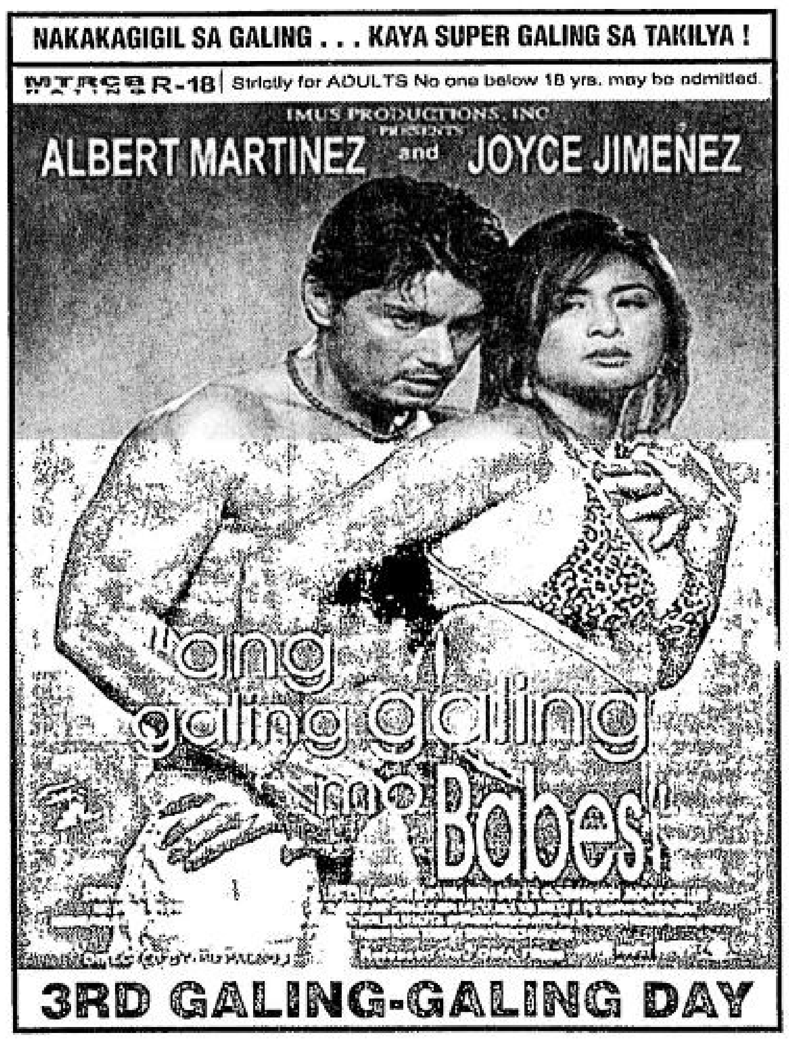
Son to a glamorous lifestyle editor and brother to two stunning top mannequins, Robby tells host Cheri Mercado how it's like to grow up in a home steeped in art, fashion and the finer things in life. He also talks about the personal space he has created away from the catwalk.

Also a second generation fashion figure, lovely young designer Katrina Goulbourn is injecting new creative blood into the classic lines of Silk Cocoon. Despite personalities that are as different as chalk and cheese, discover how Trina has derived inspiration from her mother's work without losing the identity of her own work.

Cheri Mercado hosts "Coffee Talk," 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., Saturday and Sundays, over the ABS-CBN News Channel (ANC).

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	PAKISABI NA LANG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	WIND TALKERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	MEN IN BLACK 2
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	MEGIDDO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	SORORITY BOYS
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DISKARTE / FRUIT SWELLING
ODEON	WINDTALKERS
ODEON-2	RUSH HOUR / PRO
ROBEN	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	RESIDENT EVIL / RIFFER
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
REMAR-2	WINDTALKERS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
B	
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-2	STUART LITTLE 2
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	DOG SOLDIER
CINEMA-2	GAWIN SA DILIM
CINEMA-3	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MEGIDDO
CINEMA-6	HIYAS SA PARAISO
CINEMA-7	SELDA
CINEMA-8	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-12	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-14	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
CINEMA-15	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	MEN IN BLACK 2
CINEMA-2	WINDTALKERS
CINEMA-3	STUART LITTLE 2
CINEMA-4	ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
CINEMA-5	SORORITY BOYS
CINEMA-6	WINDTALKERS
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID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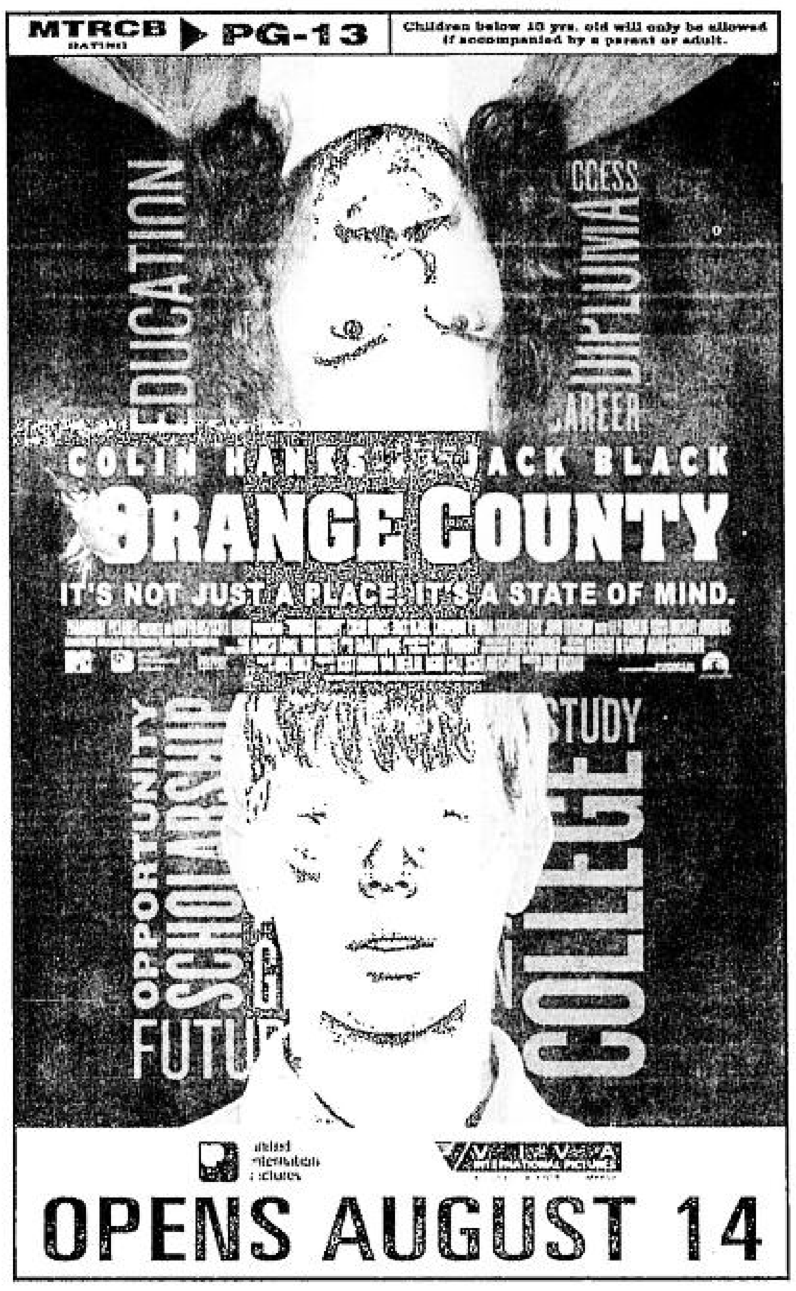
ALBERT MARTINEZ and JOYCE JIMENEZ
ang galing galing mo Babes!
3RD GALING-GALING DAY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EDUCATION
DIPLOMA
CAREER
COLIN HANKS JACK BLACK
ORANGE COUNTY
IT'S NOT JUST A PLACE. IT'S A STATE OF MIND.
OPPORTUNITY
SCHOLARSHIP
STUDY
COLLEGE
united international pictures
OPENS AUGUST 14

A MAGICAL DISNEY TREAR FOR MOVIE GOERS OF ALL AGES !
OPENS AUGUST 14
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ALL AGES ADMITTED
ALOHA!
Disney's Lilo & Stitch
Original Soundtrack Walt Disney Available From
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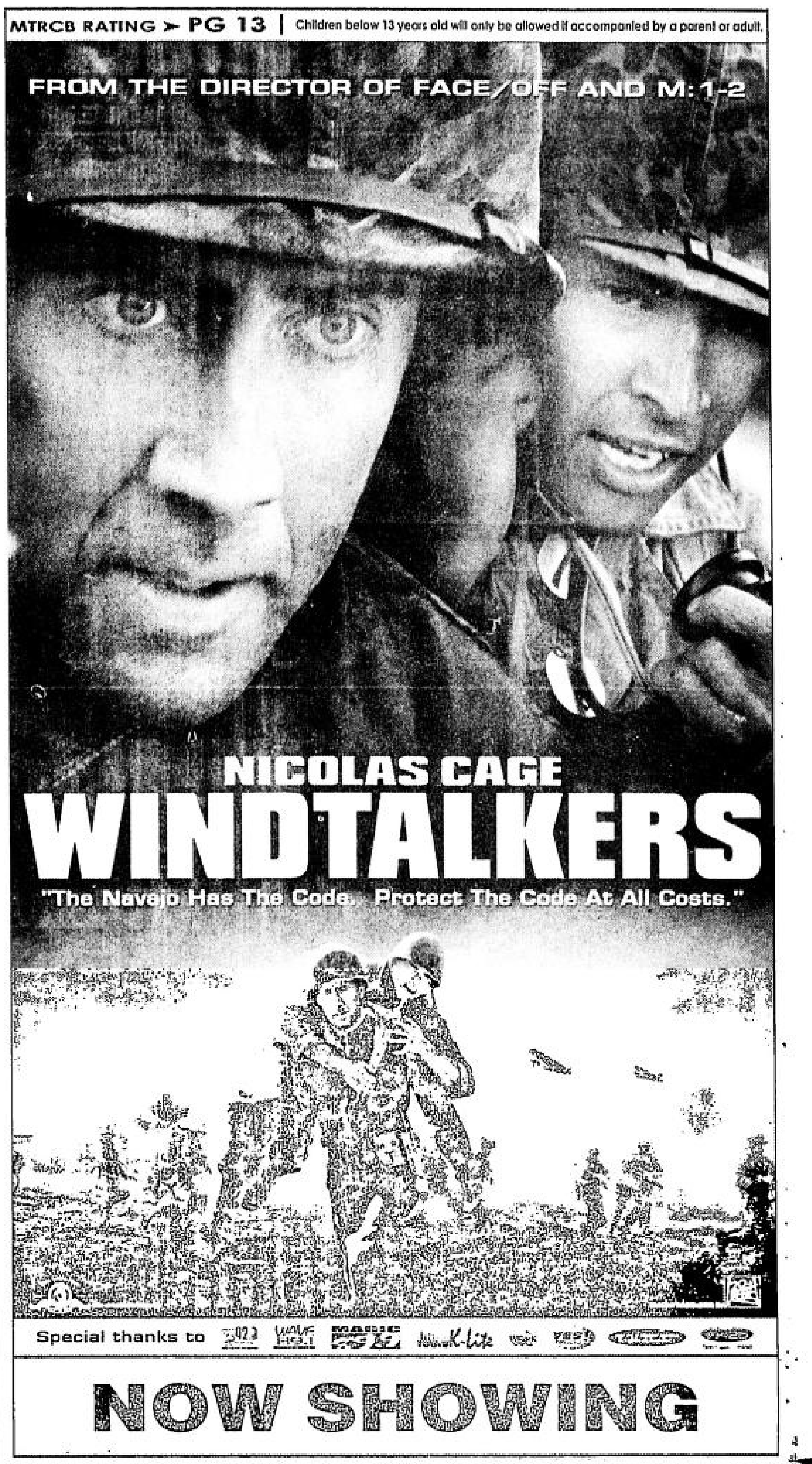
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FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FACE/OFF AND M:I-2
NICOLAS CAGE
WINDTALKERS
"The Navajo Has The Code. Protect The Code At All Costs."
Special thanks to
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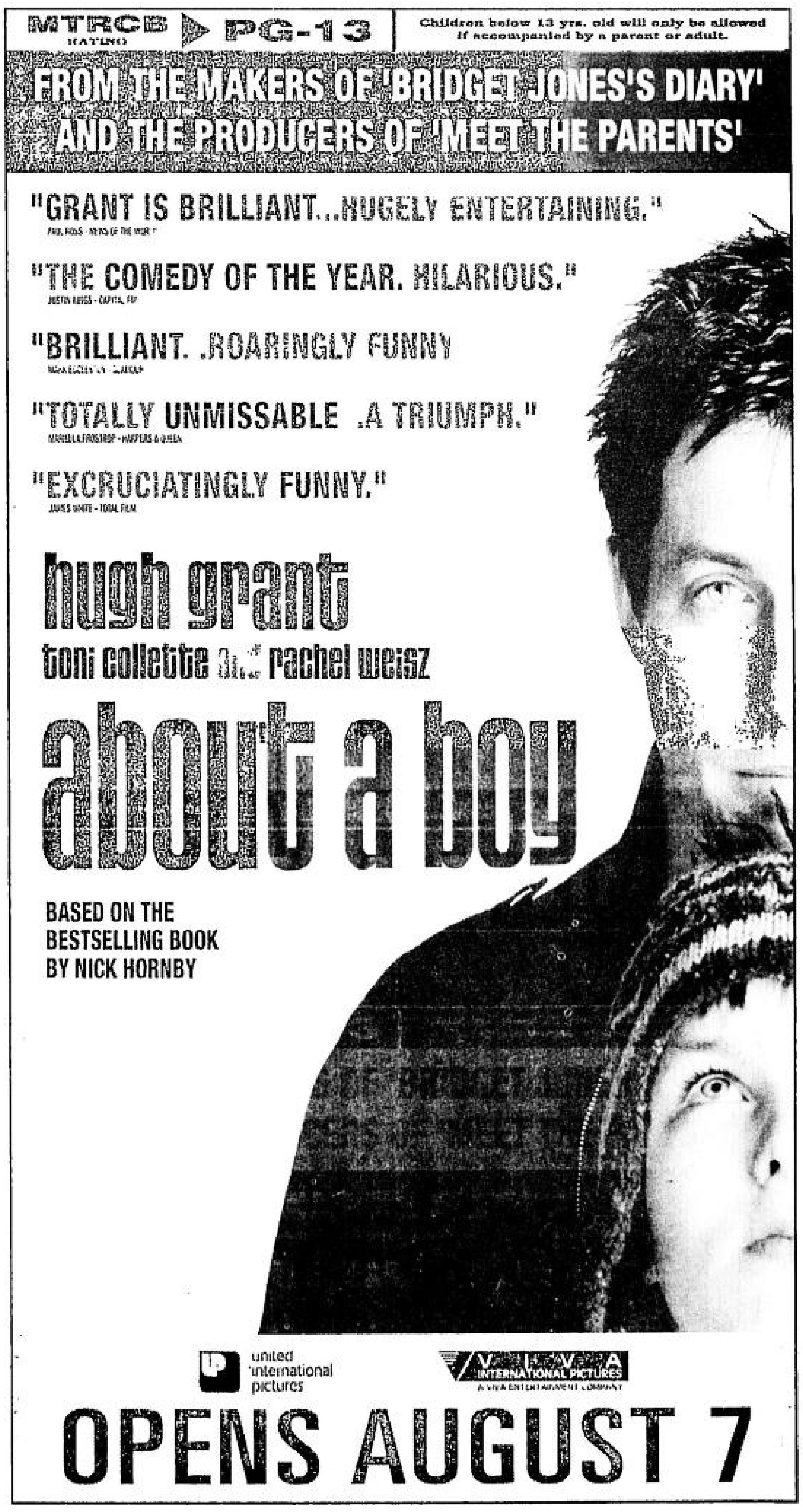
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Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
FROM THE MAKERS OF 'BRIDGET JONES'S DIARY' AND THE PRODUCERS OF 'MEET THE PARENTS'
"GRANT IS BRILLIANT...HUGELY ENTERTAINING."
"THE COMEDY OF THE YEAR. HILARIOUS."
"BRILLIANT. .ROARINGLY FUNNY
"TOTALLY UNMISSABLE .A TRIUMPH."
"EXCRUCIATINGLY FUNNY."
hugh grant
toni collette and rachel weisz
about a boy
BASED ON THE BESTSELLING BOOK BY NICK HORNBY
united international pictures
OPENS AUGUST 7

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Louie C. Camino

Postponed barangays, turtle fashions and other boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: How were the elections affected as a result of the recent rains and floods?

Co-host: Not so much. Only nine barangays were postponed.

(How do you postpone a barangay?)

* * *

Host: How do you prepare for a role, especially if it's very complex?

Actor: I try not to analyze too much. I do it instinctingly!

(Instinctingly? *Bago 'yon, a*!)

* * *

Host: What do you like to wear to a party? Are you a conservative dresser?

Actor: I like to have my own unique style.

Host: And what style is that?

Actor: Usually, *'pag* party, *ang suot ko*, coat *atsaka naka*-turtle.

(That's unique, alright!)

* * *

Host: I thought you were planning a movie comeback this year?

Veteran star: *Oo, kaya lang*, I'm still looking for a good script.

Host: You have become very choosy?

Veteran star: Of course! If and when I do make a comeback, I want to do it with a bank!

(*Ay*, bank!)

* * *

Host: Now, let's meet our next contestant. Where is she from?

Co-host: Our next contestant is from Dalansalan City!

(Where's that?)

* * *

Host: How long did you court your future wife?

Guest: I courted her for six years. *Sinagot niya ako* after four years.

(So, why did you keep courting her for two more years?)

* * *

Host: What is the effect of the suspension of officials in your office?

Guest: A big effect. As a result of the suspension, there is rampant demolition among the personnel in our office!

(*Ay*, demolition!)

* * *

Host: How did you feel when your father called you long distance from the States on your birthday?

Guest: It was really a surprise. I cried. The experience was really very touchy!

(*Ay*, touchy!)

* * *

Host: What do you like best about growing up?

Guest: I like best because from childhood, I develop into a mature.

(*Ay*, mature!)

* * *

Host: What advice can you give to young people who want to become stars in show biz?

Guest: Actually, it's easy to get in, the problem is staying up there. So, my advice is, don't sleep in your laurels!

(*Ano daw*?!)

* * *

Host: With all of the floods, what is the condition of the roads there now?

Field reporter: Well, despite the floods, most of the roads are still standing!

(Standing roads? *Ano 'yon*?)

* * *

Host: *Ano ang pinaka*-wish *mo*?

Guest: *Ang pinaka*-wish *ko sa lahat, gusto ko ma*-meet *si* President Arroyo in personal!

(*Ay*, in personal!)

SHOWS

Zsa Zsa returns to the concert scene

ARTISTS Production features the Divine Diva, Zsa Zsa Padilla, in a special show at 9 tonight at Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

"Time After" is a concert series that brings back Zsa Zsa to the live entertainment scene, with Homer Flores as her musical director.

Zsa Zsa will sing a wide range of songs which include "Sweet Dreams," "Time After Time," "Say A Little Prayer," medleys of her hits and songs of Louie Ocampo.

"Time After" is presented by Mossimo, Ambi Pur Car, Block and White, Pearl of the Pacific Resort Boracay and Nestlé's La Cremeria.

Minor sponsors are Astoria Plaza, Robbinsdale Hotel, Atrium Hotel, Cresta del Mar (all managed with distinction by Genesis Hotels and Resorts Group), Vie Nouvelle Bijoux (Peninsula Manila basement arcade), Eye Magazine and Wave 89.1.

Zsa Zsa's "Time After" will have other performances at Casino Filipino-Tagaytay on Aug. 17 and Casino Filipino-Mimosa on Aug. 23.

For tickets and inquiries about "Time After" and future shows of Live Artists Production which include The Hunks at Casino Filipino-Parañaque on Aug. 23, call 920-2643 or (0918) 923-9825.

'Crossover Presents'

105.1 CROSSOVER pulls another musical coup with the return of hit maker Joey Albert, who's now living a quiet life in Vancouver, Canada.

Joey returns for a one-night engagement Aug. 15 at Captain's Bar of Mandarin Oriental.

The special show will highlight an evening of music as Joey performs her timeless hits like "Tell Me," "It's Over Now," "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin" and Crossover classics like "The World Will Sing Our Song" by The Jones Girls, "Manic Monday" by Sonia and an upbeat Sergio Mendes medley.

Joining Joey onstage are comedian Jon Santos, The Opera with "Crossover Presents" resident musicians Mel Villena on sax, Bobby Taylo on bass, Cesar Aguas on guitar, Roy Mercado on drums and Gerard Salonga as musical director.

Instrumental group Da Capo starts the show at 8 p.m. with favorite contemporary jazz tunes.

For ticket inquiries, call the Crossover office at 731-1667, Ticket World at 891-5610 or Captain's Bar at Mandarin at 750-8888.

Pops at Ratsky

THE FINAL show of the "Ratsky on Tour" presents Pops Fernandez series is set Aug. 3 at Rastky's in Tomas Morato, Quezon City.

After performing to an SRO crowd at Ratsky's Malate, Pops is again expected to serenade the Morato audience with old hits and songs from her latest album which was released as part of her 20th year in show business.

For inquiries and ticket reservation, call Mel at 373-9883 and 84.

PADILLA

ALBERT

POWER PLANT CINEMA
Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 8981440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

MEN IN BLACK 2 P 13 11:45, 1:45, 3:45, 5:45, 7:45, 9:45	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 12:30, 2:20, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50, 9:40	STUART LITTLE 2 GP 11:35, 1:25, 3:15, 5:05, 6:55, 8:45
WINDTALKERS P 13 1:00, 3:40, 6:20, 9:00	SORORITY BOYS R 18 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	WINDTALKERS P 13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20

MATINEE P80.00 - FREE SEATING - SCREENINGS BEFORE 5 PM - MON. TO FRI.

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!
DOLBY DIGITAL
NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 1 WINDTALKERS 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50 P 13
CINEMA 2 STUART LITTLE 2 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00 GP
All Reserved Seating: P120.00
TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 7224496

MUSIC MUSEUM
AUG. 2-3, 2002 FALSETTOS (New Voice Company) 8:30 PM
AUGUST 7 - 24, 2002 ALIKABOK
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More Fun, More Comedy for the Entire Family
2nd 'BIG ADVENTURE' WEEK !
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This Season A Little Goes A Long Way
STUART LITTLE 2
StuartLittle.com

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3RD ' SUPER ADVENTURE ' WEEK !
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LUNGSOD NG MAKATI 1995 PILIPINAS
AYALA CINEMAS
MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002
4TH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL
Makati City, Metro Manila, Philippines
August 1-15, 2002
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STARCONCERTS
presents
Mitch Valdes
ROCKS!
AUGUST 29, THURSDAY, 9 P.M.
at Onstage
2nd level, Greenbelt 1, Ayala Center, Makati City
Show tickets at P600 • P800 (plus 3% ticketron charge)
Tickets are available at all TicketWorld outlets. For inquiries and reservations call 891-5610

For sreening times, call 729-7777.
Schedules are subject to change without prior notice.
AYALA CINEMAS NOW SHOWING

G1 GLORIETTA 1	G4 GLORIETTA 4	GB1 GREENBELT 1	GB3 GREENBELT 3	ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 WINDTALKERS	1 MEN IN BLACK 2 2 WINDTALKERS	1 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	STUART LITTLE 2 1:00, 2:50, 4:00, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10, 12:00	1 WINDTALKERS
2 STUART LITTLE 2	WINDTALKERS 3 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00	2 MAKATI CINEMANILA 2002	WINDTALKERS 1:00, 3:45, 6:30, 9:15, 12:00	2 WINDTALKERS
PAKISABI NA LANG MAHAL KO SIYA	4 MEGIDDO 5 SORORITY BOYS	Onstage RICO J. PUNO IN SOMETHING WONDERFUL AUG. 16 - 9:00 PM	AMELIE 1:00, 3:35, 6:10, 8:45, 11:20 MEN IN BLACK 2 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	3 STUART LITTLE 2 ANG GALING GALING MO BABES
ANG GALING GALING MO BABES	6 STUART LITTLE 2 ANG GALING GALING MO BABES		SORORITY BOYS 11:20, 1:20, 3:20, 5:20, 7:20, 9:20, 11:20	5 MEN IN BLACK 2

Reserve your seats by texting "SURESEATS G4" (or any Ayala Cinema) and send to 2333. Or log on to www.sureseats.com

The Ayala mall Events
THIS WEEK'S EVENTS
MAKATI ALABANG CEBU

The award-winning Changchun Acrobatic Troupe from Beijing

MAKATI
August 2 to 4
2pm, 4pm and 6pm
Glorietta Activity Center

ALABANG
August 9 to 11
11am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

CEBU
August 16
11:30am, 5pm and 7pm
August 17 & 18
11:30am, 3pm and 6pm
Activity Center

bench/

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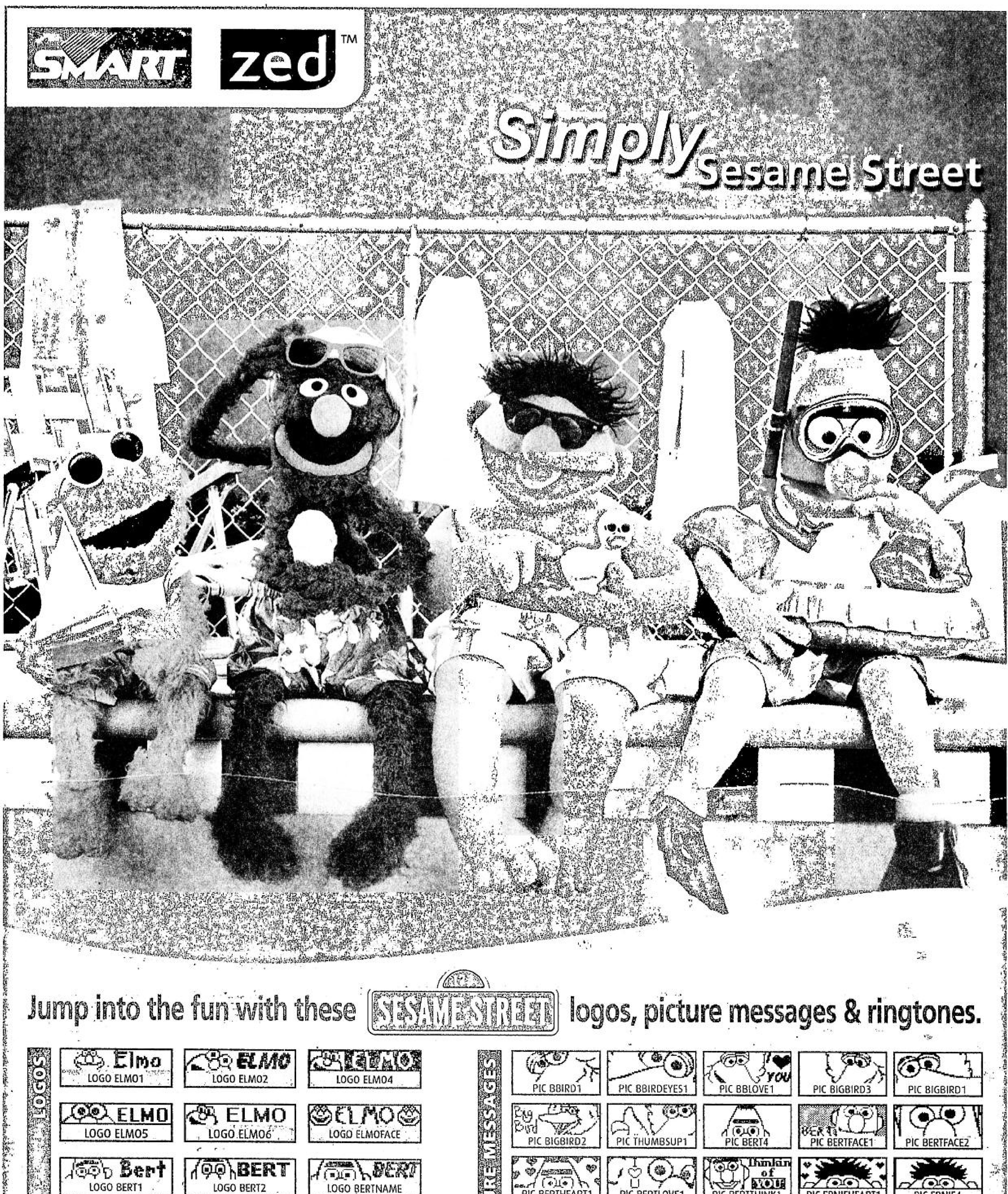
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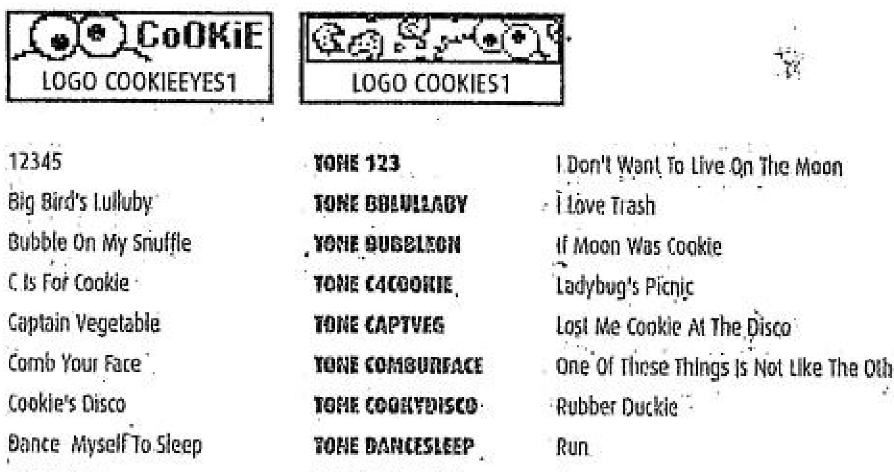
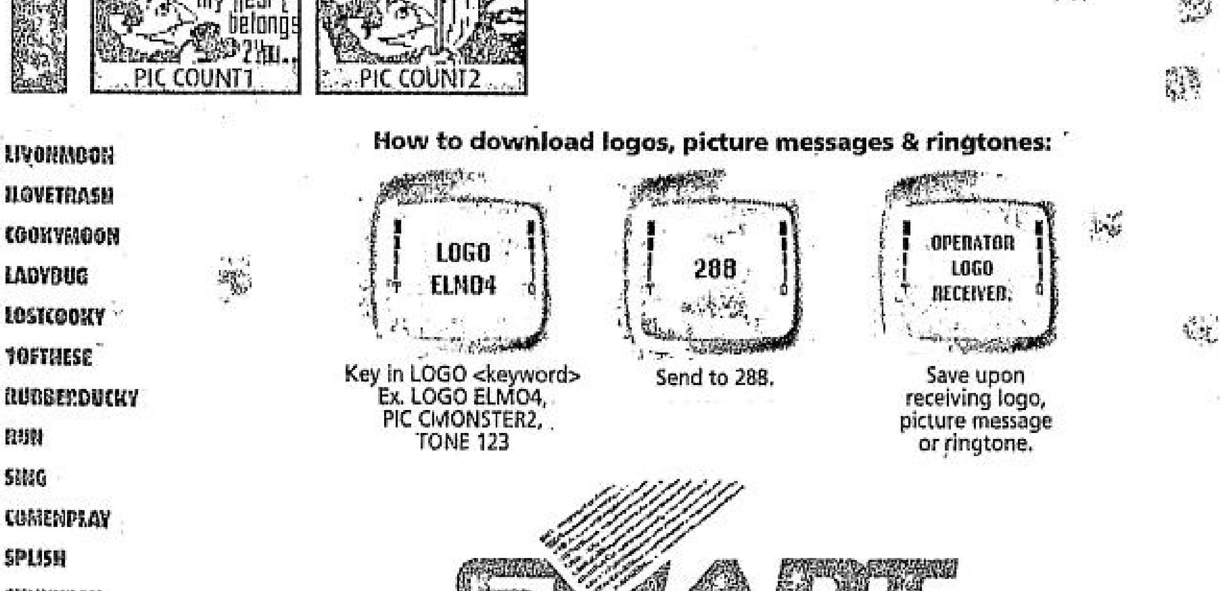
Jump into the fun with these SESAME STREET logos, picture messages & ringtones.

LOGOS


Elmo
LOGO ELMO1
ELMO
LOGO ELMO2
ELMO
LOGO ELMO4
ELMO
LOGO ELMO5
ELMO
LOGO ELMO6
ELMO
LOGO ELMOFACE
Bert
LOGO BERT1
BERT
LOGO BERT2
BERT
LOGO BERTNAME
Ernie
LOGO ERNIE1
LOGO ERNIE2
CoOKiE
LOGO COOKIEEYES1
LOGO COOKIES1

PICTURE MESSAGES


YOU
PIC BBIRD1
PIC BBIRDEYES1
PIC BBLOVE1
PIC BIGBIRD3
PIC BIGBIRD1
Big Bird
PIC BIGBIRD2
PIC THUMBSUP1
PIC BERT4
BERT
PIC BERTFACE1
PIC BERTFACE2
PIC BERTHEART1
PIC BERTLOVE1
thinkin of YOU
PIC BERTTHINK1
PIC ERNIEHEART1
PIC ERNIE4
cookie! cookie!
PIC CMONSTER1
PIC CMONSTER2
PIC CMONSTER3
PIC GROVER1
my heart belongs 2 u..
PIC COUNT1
PIC COUNT2

RINGTONES

12345	**TONE 123**	I Don't Want To Live On The Moon	**TONE LIVONMOON**
Big Bird's Lullaby	**TONE BBLULLABY**	I Love Trash	**TONE ILOVETRASH**
Bubble On My Snuffle	**TONE BUBBLEON**	If Moon Was Cookie	**TONE COOKYMOON**
C Is For Cookie	**TONE C4COOKIE**	Ladybug's Picnic	**TONE LADYBUG**
Captain Vegetable	**TONE CAPTVEG**	Lost Me Cookie At The Disco	**TONE LOSTCOOKY**
Comb Your Face	**TONE COMBURFACE**	One Of These Things Is Not Like The Other	**TONE 1OFTHESE**
Cookie's Disco	**TONE COOKYDISCO**	Rubber Duckie	**TONE RUBBERDUCKY**
Dance Myself To Sleep	**TONE DANCESLEEP**	Run	**TONE RUN**
Elmo's Song	**TONE ELMOSONG**	Sing	**TONE SING**
Everybody Wash	**TONE EBODYWASH**	Somebody Come And Play	**TONE COMENPLAY**
Fixin' My Hair	**TONE MYHAIR**	Splish Splash	**TONE SPLISH**
Fuzzy And Blue	**TONE FUZYNBLUE**	Sunny Day	**TONE SUNNYDAY**
Grouch Anthem	**TONE GROUCH**	Take Care Of That Smile	**TONE THATSMILE**
Happy Tappin Elmo	**TONE TAPPIN**	Teeny Little Super Guy	**TONE LITTLEGUY**

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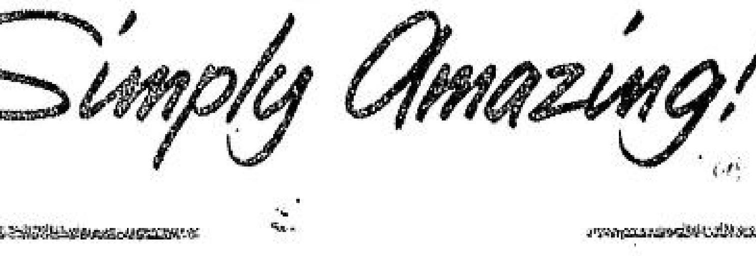
LOGO
ELMO4
288
OPERATOR
LOGO
RECEIVED.

Key in LOGO <keyword>
Ex. LOGO ELMO4,
PIC CMONSTER2,
TONE 123

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This promotion is open to SMART Gold, SMART Buddy and Talk 'N Text subscriber. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1351, series of 2002

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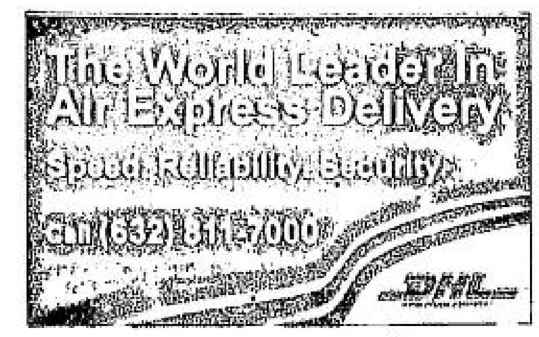
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

Editor **Raul O. Marcelo** ◎ *Assistant Editor* **Corrie S. Narisma**

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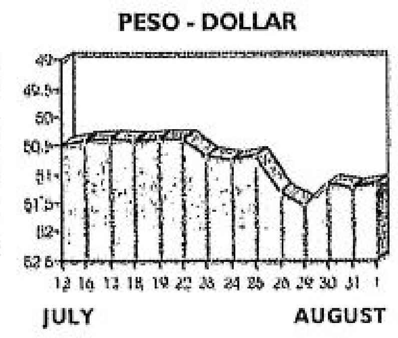


GRAPHS BY ROBERT ANDRES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

P51.15 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Aug. 1, 2002

¥119.82 = $1

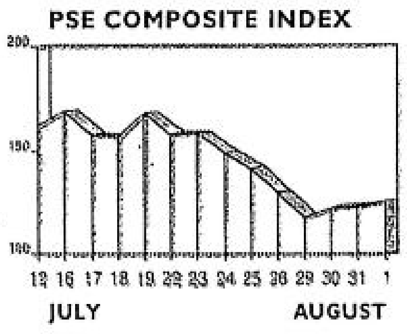
As of 5 p.m., Aug. 1, 2002

GOLD: $302.20/302.70

per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 1, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Stocks end higher



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARES tiptoed higher in light trade yesterday supported largely by index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. after it said first-half net income doubled against a year ago.

Traders said most investors remained out of the market due to lingering questions on the government's ability to meet its budget deficit target this year and a lack of buying incentives on the corporate front.

"The market eked out small gains...Aside from corporate problems, we still have problems with the budget deficit," said Henry Ong, vice president for sales at KGI Securities Inc.

Ong also said the appreciation of the peso helped market sentiment, with the peso hitting a high of 51.08 to the dollar in intra-day trade against its previous close of 51.255 on Wednesday.

The Philippine stock index edged up 1.92 points or 0.17 percent to end at 1,125.16 points, after the index traded within a tight range of just about eight points. The broader All Shares Index fell 3.86 points, or 0.6 percent, at 642.78 points. Turnover slid to P315.2 million against P344.12 million on Wednesday. Losers outpaced gainers, 27 to 20, while 31 issues were unchanged.

Reuters

ATR Kim Eng in backdoor listing

SHAREHOLDERS of Philtread Holdings Corp. have approved the acquisition of 100 percent of ATR Kim Eng Capital Partners Inc. for P1.1 billion, paving the way for the backdoor listing of the country's biggest non-bank investment house.

In a presentation during the Philtread stockholders' meeting on Wednesday, Philtread chair and ATR president Manuel Tordesillas said the acquisition would be made in exchange for P1 billion in cash and a five-year promissory note for the balance.

Philtread's corporate name will be changed to ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp.

ATR/ B2

July inflation seen lower; BSP keeps rates unchanged

By Clarissa S. Batino

ECONOMIC Planning Secretary Dante Canlas yesterday said the inflation rate in July should drop to 2.8 percent or at least stay steady at 3 percent on account of stable food and fuel prices and a much lower cost of electricity.

Despite the favorable inflation trend, the policy-making Monetary Board of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas kept its overnight rates unchanged at 7 percent for borrowing and 9.25 percent for lending.

Monetary authorities said in a statement that while inflation continued to be benign, factors like the impending El Niño phenomenon that could severely affect farm output plus planned fuel price increases might put pressure on prices in the coming months.

"I think the inflation in July could be lower or at least stay at 3 percent because food prices were stable although there was a slight uptick after the typhoon, but it has stabilized soon after," Canlas said.

Inflation declining to 2.8 percent would be the lowest in two-and-a-half years.

The economic planning chief also pointed to lower electricity rates as a big factor for the expected drop in the consumer price index this month.

Since late last year to May this year, consumers contended with increasing electricity rates almost monthly because of the rising purchased power adjustment or the controversial PPA.

Starting May; the state-owned National Power Corp. was ordered by President Macapagal-Arroyo to bring down the cost of the PPA to 40 centavos per kilowatt-hour. Electric utilities like Manila Electric Co. effectively reduced the PPA by 30 centavos per kWh.

Inflation had averaged at 3.5 percent in the first half of 2002 after the rate in June slid to a 28-month low of 3 percent. This year, the government is targeting to limit inflation to 4.5-5.5 percent.

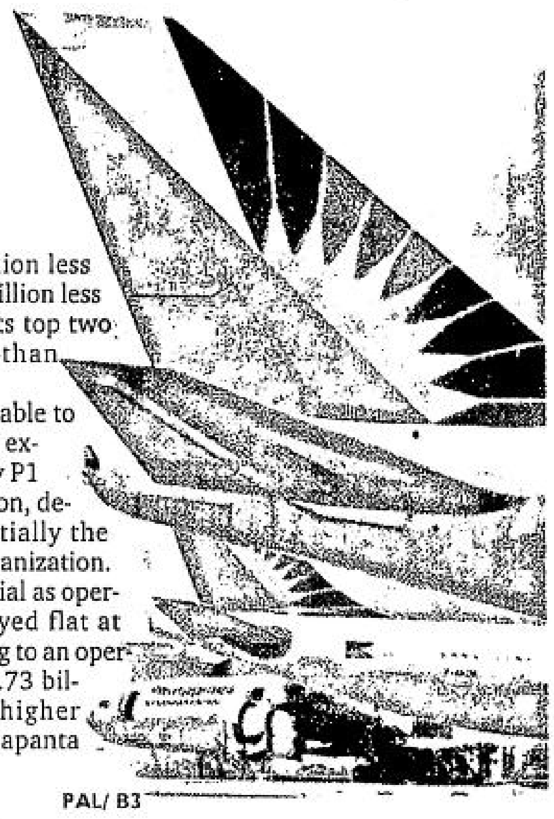
Canlas earlier said the favorable inflation trend suggested that the growth in consumer prices would average between 3.2 and 3.5 percent.

In 2003, the inflation rate target is placed similar to this year's 4.5-5.5 percent but Canlas said there could be room to bring down the range next year by half-a-percentage point.

"We can bring it down to 4 to 5 percent next year, but it may have implications on monetary policies," Canlas said in an earlier interview.

Oil companies have given notice that they were planning to raise pump prices by about 39 centavos per liter, although Canlas said that even if the increases would push through, these would not yet impact on the July inflation numbers.

PAL bounces back, posts P984-M net profit in Q1



PHILIPPINE Airlines surged back to profitability after slipping into the red last year by posting a record P983.9 million net income for the April to June period this year, the first quarter of its current 2002-2003 fiscal year.

The surplus, the largest quarterly profit in PAL's 61-year history, largely made up for the P1.6-billion annual loss the flag carrier suffered in the preceding fiscal year. That deficit was caused mainly by the fallout from the Sept. 11 US terror attacks.

"This achievement is the result of an entire team pulling together at a critical juncture for the company. I could not have asked for a better start to the fiscal year," said PAL president Avelino L. Zapanta.

PAL's fiscal year begins April 1 and ends March 31 the following year.

This year's P983.9-million first quarter profit was more than twice the P457.7-million net income PAL earned for the same period last year. It also surpassed the airline's internal budget target nearly nine times over.

"The profit performance reflected PAL's ability to adjust to the dynamics of the volatile post-Sept. 11 marketplace," Zapanta said.

PAL intensified its already stringent cost-cutting program, spending P343 million less on fuel and P84.4 million less on maintenance—its top two expenses items—than last year.

Overall, PAL was able to reduce its operating expenditures by nearly P1 billion to P8.67 billion, despite having essentially the same assets and organization.

"This proved crucial as operating revenues stayed flat at P11.4 billion, leading to an operating income of P2.73 billion—45 percent higher than a year ago," Zapanta said.

PAL/ B3

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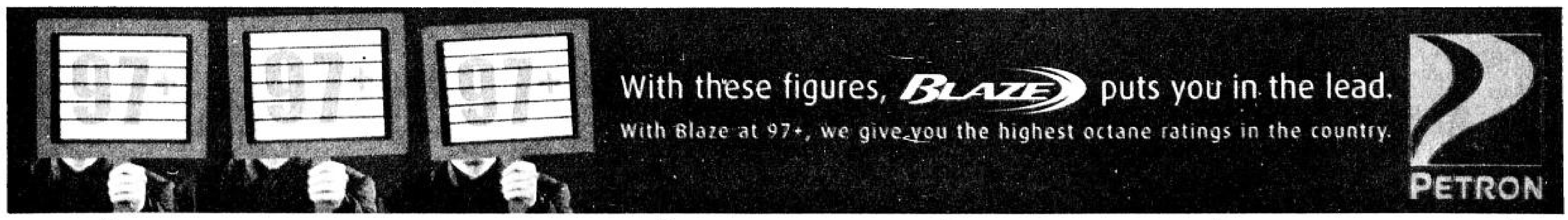
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Cock-up on Kapunan

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

SUPREME Court Justice Santiago Kapunan may go off to his deserved retirement middle of this month, without a censure from his high court colleagues unlike what had accompanied the exit of Justice Fidel Purisima.

Unlike Purisima (the father, not the brother as earlier reported, of the SGV chair) who was found to have had failed to disclose that a nephew was taking the bar exams when Purisima was bar exams chief, Kapunan had disclosed a similar predicament to his Supreme Court colleagues when he was bar exams chief a year earlier.

This issue had publicly come up last year when Kapunan was under attack from the civil society groups who had feared Kapunan's alleged pro-Erap leanings.

Kapunan himself wrote letters to other papers answering the attacks, including his alleged non-disclosure of his relation to a grandniece who had taken and successfully passed the bar exams in 1998.

Unfortunately, Kapunan did not furnish us a copy of his letter; thus a short item that appeared in this column on Sept. 15, 2001, went unchallenged and unfortunately repeated last week, specifically in regard to his alleged non-disclosure.

With his grandniece's personally furnishing us a copy of Kapunan's letters, Cocktales takes back what we wrote about Kapunan in the July 26 and 29 columns.

In the meantime, excuse us while we finish eating our humble pie. Chomp, chomp.

Undressed Narvasa

FIRST he was censured for failing to properly comport himself inside a courtroom.

Now he is again on the spotlight, for sponsoring a controversial golf tourney where justices and judges will not only play with litigation lawyers, but will also receive cash and door prizes, courtesy of the leading law firms.

We are referring to ex-Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, who seems to have lost his Dominican discernment, drilled from his years in the University of Santo Tomas, apparently with his present association with his famous client from San Juan.

The golf tournament was supposed to be held in Wack Wack, where Narvasa, after stepping down from the Supreme Court, obtained playing rights from a firm whose corporate ownership of the golf share was precisely under litigation.

Imagine, an ex-Chief Justice receiving and enjoying what was alleged to be a stolen good!

In fairness, Narvasa returned the playing rights like a hot potato after it was reported in this column.

Smile, you're on candid camera

THIS seems to be the motto of ex-PSE chair Robert Coyiuto Jr. in the rare times that he attends the board meeting of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

In addition to tape recording the board meeting, the PSE board has installed a video camera in the Ayala boardroom to presumably catch not only who said what to whom but, more importantly, if any body impolitic gestures accompanied the oratorical exchanges.

The strange thing about the video camera is that it is always pointed at Coyiuto wherever he sits, as if the tough-talking broker has a homing device planted in him.

So when PSE president Ernest Leung fell backward Tuesday while tilting and rocking his chair, hitting his head on the floor, ouch, the accident went unrecorded. (Leung, fortunately, was more stirred and shaken, rather than physically hurt, after the fall.)

But then again, Coyiuto was not in the same meeting with Leung.

MVP disclosure

PLDT said its president, Manuel V. Pangilinan, also reported his purchase of 10,000 shares of PLDT to the local exchange, in addition to a similar disclosure filed at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange. (See Cocktales, July 31, 2002 for background.)

MVP acquired the PLDT shares on May 16, while his principal, Anthoni Salim, was wrapping up negotiations with taipan John Gokongwei over the purchase of the controlling stake in Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and Fort Bonifacio development.

Heard through the grapevine

THE US Embassy has again renewed the persona non grata status of Rep. Imee Marcos, thus preventing the Ilocos Norte solon from visiting her son, Borgy, who is enrolled in San Diego (California). *(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)*

PLDT doubles net profit to P2.8B in 1st six months

By Abigail L. Ho

DOMINANT carrier Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. more than doubled its net income to P2.8 billion in the first half of 2002 despite the issues that it faces with parent firm First Pacific Co. Ltd.

"Our strong performance during the first half of 2002 coupled with the accomplishment of key milestones in our liability management program confirm that the fundamentals of our business remain strong, and the business plan which the PLDT board and management set out to accomplish for the year is on track," PLDT president and chief executive Manuel Pangilinan said in a statement yesterday.

Westlink Global Equities research head James Lago said PLDT's management continued to operate the company well despite focusing quite some attention on its tussle with First Pacific.

"It's all about margins. It's a matter of keeping operational expenses in check and getting lower financing costs. Although there's something happening at the top, it doesn't mean management is remiss in its duties," he said.

PLDT's consolidated revenues also grew by 8 percent to P39.7 billion, with cellular subsidiary Smart Communications Inc. still propelling growth for the dominant carrier.

Smart's revenues went up 53 percent to P16.3 billion in the first half from P10.6 billion in the same period last year. Its net income likewise grew 34 percent to P2.4 billion from last year's P1.8 billion.

But Smart's subscriber take-up and average revenue per unit (ARPU) were seen to taper off in the coming months.

F. Yap Securities Inc. analyst Joanne Miguel said Smart's monthly net subscriber additions would be reaching a plateau in the coming months, although income would still be derived from it because of its established revenue base.

"Even if there will be a slowdown in take-up, the revenues will still be there but growth will not be as much as what (Smart) has been experiencing the past months," she said.

An industry source revealed that Smart's monthly net subscriber additions in the second quarter had gone down to below 100,000.

Sister firm Pilipino Telephone Corp. also saw a decline to less than 50,000 average monthly additions in the same period.

Lago said ARPU would be hitting equilibrium at P500 per month for prepaid and P1,600 to P1,800 per month for postpaid.

Blended ARPU, or combined average earnings for prepaid and postpaid, was likely to reach P3,000 annually, he said.

"When it reaches that point, when it becomes flat like that, the (growth) driver will just be continuous take-up. If the consumers' spending power improves, the driver will likely be the value-added services," Lago said.

Miguel said an improvement in telecommunications spending would come only when an economic rebound occurs.

However, she said it was hard to tell how much time it would take for a possible decline in Smart's subscriber take-up and revenues to impact on PLDT's bottom line.

PLDT posted consolidated earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization of P22.5 billion, 13 percent higher than last year's figure, and a stable EBITDA margin of 57 percent of revenues.

P3.65-B DEAL

Aboitiz buys out WG&A partners

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE ABOITIZ family has finalized a deal to buy out the 61-percent combined stake held by the Chiongbian and Gothong families in William, Gothong & Aboitiz (WG&A), the largest shipping firm in the Philippines, for about P3.65 billion.

The buyout of the 918 million shares held by the two other key stockholders will raise the holdings of the Aboitiz family from 31 percent to close to 92 percent of WG&A, likewise resolving a boardroom squabble that had dragged on during the last few months.

The agreement, which is expected to be closed within 90 days, involves the purchase of the other groups' shares at a price of P3.98 per share, the company disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

The disclosure said 50 percent of the purchase amount would be payable in cash on closing date and the balance is payable over five years with interest fixed at 12 percent and a one-year grace on principal.

Erramon I. Aboitiz, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Aboitiz Equity Ventures, said: "This transaction is a very strategic acquisition for AEV. It consolidates our ownership and management position in a company which is the dominant leader in the shipping industry and one which would provide very healthy returns and cash flow for our group."

Victor Chiongbian, chief executive officer of the Chiongbian group of companies, said the deal was a win-win situation for all shareholders. "We believe that we have divested at a very reasonable price and that we would be able to re-channel our resources in the fast growing logistics business."

Industry sources said that the Chiongbian and Gothong groups earlier teamed up in an attempt to oust Enrique Aboitiz as president of WG&A. However, they would have to secure the consent of the shipping line's creditors before they could effect any change in WG&A's management.

WG&A shares stood unchanged at P3.40 at the local stock market yesterday, although it has sharply risen from P2.65 as of July 25.

Analysts welcomed the resolution of the shareholder dispute within WG&A through the buyout deal.

"It is good for shareholders that this was resolved soonest," Eagle Equities president Joseph Roxas said. "PLDT (Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.) should take the cue from WG&A. He who has the money wins."

But since the Aboitiz group would be buying out a large block, Roxas said a tender offer should be made to the minority shareholders.

"The buyout is good because it will beef up AEV's business portfolio," said 2tradeasia.com analyst Joanne Miguel.

Publicly listed AEV is a diversified holding company that maintains interests in power, banking, food, and transport.

WG&A is the biggest and most profitable shipping company in the Philippines, operating 23 vessels nationwide and is the largest provider of domestic ferry transportation in the Philippines on both the passenger and cargo business.

Sun Life wants to list new shares, seeks waiver of fees

By Elena R. Torrijos

SUN Life Financial Services of Canada Inc., one of the largest insurance firms in Canada, may delist from the Philippine Stock Exchange if it finds it too expensive to list additional shares in the exchange, SEC officials said.

Sun Life has applied for listing of a total of 218.54 million common shares at the PSE but does not want to pay filing fees for registration of the shares with the Securities and Exchange commission here.

The SEC, for its part, has refused to register the shares unless filing fees were paid. However, the Commission has offered a compromise solution. Sun Life can either pay the regular filing fee of one-tenth of one percent of the value of shares to be listed at the PSE or 100,000 Canadian dollars, the same amount that the SEC then under Chair Perfecto Yasay agreed to charge Sun Life when the latter first listed at the PSE in March 2002.

"They have to pay just like any registrant (before they list)," a SEC official said.

Shares listed at the PSE must be registered with the SEC and filing fees for registration must be paid.

In a letter to the SEC, Sun Life's lawyer Aileen Sarah Tolosa-Lerma of Romulo Mabanta Buenaventura Sayoc & De los Angeles law firm said that the insurance firm urgently needed to have these shares listed at the PSE as it might incur violation of its obligations under the other exchanges where its common shares are currently listed.

Tolosa-Lerma said that Sun Life was seeking confirmation that filing of notices of exemption for the 218.54 million Sun Life shares to be listed was sufficient for purposes of listing of the shares with the PSE.

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED directors of **Centro Escolar University** were Emilio Yap, Ernesto Echauz, Rosita Navarro, Carmelita La'O, Lucila Tiongco, Corazon Tiongco, Emil Javier, Andrew Gonzalez and Josephine Lichauco.

* * *

ELECTED directors of **RFM Cop.** were Jose Concepcion Jr., Jose Ma. Concepcion III, John Marie Concepcion, Ernest Fritz Server, Francisco Segovia, Felicisimo Nacino Jr., Ma. Victoria Concepcion, Danilo Santiago, Ma. Lina Santiago, Joseph Server Jr., Jose Segovia, Ma. Victoria Ana Monasterio, Raissa Hechanova Posadas and AB Colayco.

* * *

ELECTED independent directors of **Picop Resources Inc.** were Roberto Atendido, Louis Coson and Arthur Aguilar.

* * *

EAST Asia Power Resources Corp. moved its annual stockholders' meeting from Aug. 21 to Sept. 4. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Thursday, August 1, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	16.5	16.75	16.5	16.5	65,800
Bank of the Phil. Islands	47.5	47.5	45.5	46	859,200
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27.5	28.5	27.5	28.5	240,300
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	34	35	34	35	282,900
Philippine National Bank	29.5	30.5	29.5	29.5	68,100
Security Bank Corp.	14.5	14.5	13.5	14.5	5,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18	18	18	18	139,900
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.1	1.32	1.1	1.32	2,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1220	1220	1220	1220	370
Sun Life Financial Serv.	910	910	910	910	550
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	22.25	22.25	22	22	4,200
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	630,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	515	515	505	515	19,190
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.026	0.029	0.026	0.029	7,300,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	9,600,000
Piltel	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	50,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	320	320	310	317.5	105,400
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	500,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	19.25	20	19.25	20	4,300
Manila Electric Co. B	28.5	28.5	28	28	1,364,100
Petron Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,926,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.42	2.44	2.42	2.44	425,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.45	3.65	3.4	3.4	345,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12	12.25	12	12	17,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	30.5	32	30.5	32	13,000
RFM Corp.	0.86	0.87	0.86	0.87	600,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46.5	46	46	101,100
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51	51.5	30,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	410,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.2	504,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.4	2.4	2.38	2.38	554,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	530,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	50,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	4,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	2.48	2.48	2.46	2.46	15,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	10	10	10	10	3,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.31	3,300,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	500,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.26	1.26	1.26	1.26	5,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.25	13.75	13.25	13.5	1,403,100
Global Equities Inc.	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
Ionics Inc.	5.2	5.2	5	5	135,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.46	1.46	1.4	1.42	1,036,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.67	0.67	0.66	0.66	1,080,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.26	420,000
Music Corp.	0.15	0.155	0.15	0.155	800,000
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	10,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	0.0675	100,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.21	0.21	1,120,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Active Alliance Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	50,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.47	240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	22.25	22.25	22.25	22.25	213,200
Jollibee Warrants	11.75	11.75	11.75	11.75	10,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10	10	10	10	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	5.2	5.2	4.65	4.65	26,000
Far Eastern University	450	450	450	450	800
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.1	6.2	6	6.2	12,520,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	350,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.195	0.195	850,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	669,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.08	0.09	0.08	0.09	200,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
SM Development Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	200,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.7	5.7	5.6	5.6	7,343,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.18	0.18	0.16	0.16	2,810,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.18	0.18	340,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.003	0.003	0.003	0.003	17,000,000
Polar Mines & Dev't. Corp.	0.015	0.015	0.015	0.015	5,500,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	50,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.245	0.245	0.245	0.245	500,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	200,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	11,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0028	0.003	0.0026	0.0026	327,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	50,000
Pacifica	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	1,000,000

ATR Kim Eng . . .

From page B1

ATR, which has core expertise in capital fund-raising, financial advisory services and fixed income, has P7.15 billion in total assets and a net worth of P1.1 billion as of March 2002.

Philtread will thus purchase ATR from principal shareholders ATR Holdings and Singapore-based Kim Eng Holdings. Simultaneously, ATRH and Kim Eng will subscribe to 100 percent of the issue, subject to the preemptive rights of public shareholders.

Tordesillas said ATRH and Kim Eng would acquire at least 85 percent of the issue, using the preemptive right entitlements of ATR (40 percent) and the combined entitlements of other shareholders including Philex Mining Corp., Bridgestone/Firestone Inc. and Motherwell Inc. (45 percent).

The shareholders also approved the rights offering consisting of a total of 500 million Philtread common shares at P2 per share with 100 million detachable subscription warrants. Three investment banks have already been shortlisted to manage the issuance.

Philtread is raising its authorized capital to P1.3 billion from P300 million following the rights offering.

Formerly known as Philtread Tire & Rubber Corp., Philtread ceased its tire manufacturing operations in 1994 to avert the deterioration of its financial condition brought by labor problems and continuing losses. It likewise sold certain parcels of land to Sucat Land Corp., a 60-percent owned subsidiary. ***Doris Dumlao***

CURRENCIES

Aug. 1, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.022495	1.000000	51.1950
Japan	Yen	0.008535	0.008347	0.4273
United Kingdom	Pound	1.599591	1.564400	80.0895
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.131091	0.128207	6.5636
Switzerland	Franc	0.688827	0.673673	34.4887
Canada	Dollar	0.645678	0.631473	32.3283
Singapore	Dollar	0.579909	0.567151	29.0353
Australia	Dollar	0.556611	0.544366	27.8688
Bahrain	Dinar	2.712332	2.652661	135.8030
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.272658	0.266660	13.6517
Brunei	Dollar	0.578171	0.565451	28.9483
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000112	0.000110	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.024346	0.023810	1.2190
UAE	Dirham	0.278412	0.272287	13.9397
Korea	Won	0.000872	0.000853	0.0437
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.978000	50.0687
Argentina	Real	0.277099	0.271003	13.8740
Brazil	Real	0.298975	0.292398	14.9693
Denmark	Kroner	0.134663	0.131700	6.7424
India	Rupee	0.021021	0.020559	1.0525
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.269113	0.263193	13.4742
Mexico	New Peso	0.103775	0.101492	5.1959
New Zealand	Dollar	0.479437	0.468889	24.0048
Norway	Kroner	0.133887	0.130941	6.7035
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017214	0.016835	0.8619
South Africa	Rand	0.100343	0.098135	5.0240
Sweden	Kroner	0.107933	0.105558	5.4040
Syria	Pound	0.019893	0.019455	0.9960
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.030513	0.029842	1.5278
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000763	0.000746	0.0382

PAL bounces back, posts ₱984-M profit in Q1

From page B1

Financing charges of P1.5 billion and other charges of P251.8 million further brought down the profit figure to the bottom line of P983.9 million.

Despite carrying slightly less passengers in the domestic network and flying less flights owing to the capacity alignments, PAL still experienced significantly higher systemwide load factors for the quarter: 67.6 percent in the domestic sector and 81.1 percent in international, or 78.9 percent overall.

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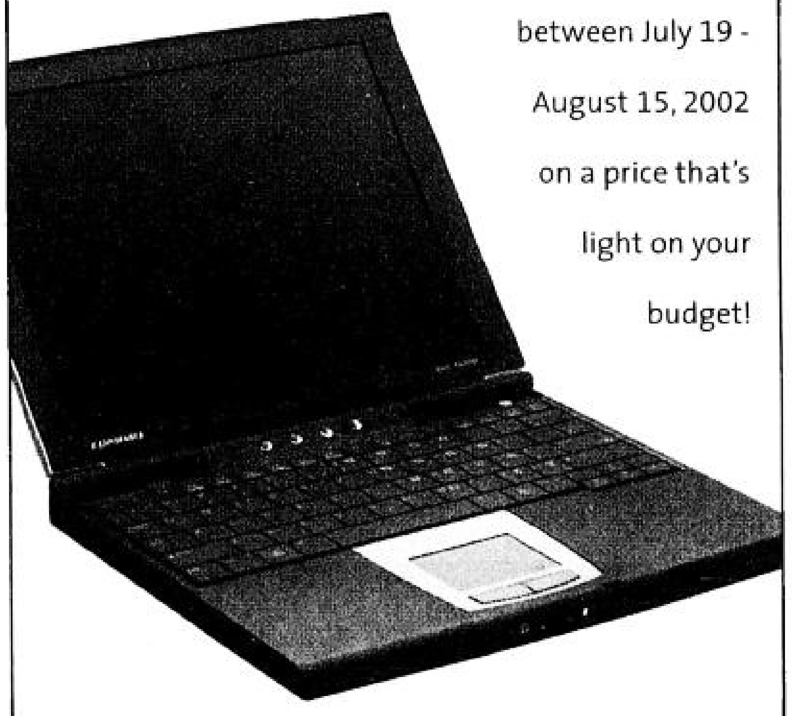

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2001 RECESSION WORSE THAN EXPECTED

US economic expansion slowed sharply in Q2

WASHINGTON—US economic momentum slowed sharply during the second quarter, according to a government report on Wednesday that also showed the country endured a deeper recession last year than first thought.

Gross domestic product—the measure of total economic output within US borders—advanced at slim 1.1 percent rate in the April-June quarter, barely half the pace analysts had anticipated, after a downwardly revised 5-percent pace of expansion in the first three months of 2002.

Newly issued revisions to past data showed GDP shrank for three quarters in row at the beginning of 2001, a far weaker performance than the Commerce Department previously reported when it said there was only one quarter of decline.

The revisions ended a debate over whether the 2001 slump was long enough to qualify a genuine recession.

President George W. Bush, facing November congressional elections in which Democrats aim to attack his administration's economic expertise, went on the offensive by saying the economy has been moving in the right direction since it resumed expanding in last year's fourth quarter.

"It's a positive trend. It's headed in the right direction. But the growth isn't strong enough as far as I'm concerned," Bush told reporters after meeting with his cabinet.

White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer said later the cabinet discussions were upbeat, focusing on how "all the ingredients are there for more robust growth going into the fall and into the winter of 2002—in other words, the next two quarters."

The second-quarter GDP report showed wary consumers slowed down their spending as stock prices tumbled during the spring and early summer while the country's trade deficit widened.

"The consumer obviously is retrenching from what you saw during the first three months of the year," said economist Kevin Flanagan of Morgan Stanley in Jersey City, New Jersey, but he noted the data still indicated some spending power.

Soft economic data played into a generally weaker trend in share prices on Wednesday but blue-chip shares later reversed direction and finished in positive turf, up 56.6 points.

The technology-heavy Nasdaq composite index finished off 16 points, or more than 1 percent, at 1328.19.

Democrats argued that faltering GDP called for stronger action to pump up activity than has been coming from the Bush administration's economic team.

"It says as clearly and conclusively as anything can that that we need economic leadership, we need it in the White House and we need it in this administration, we need it in the president, and there is no better time to start than right now," Senate majority leader Tom Daschle said on Capitol Hill.

Slow second-quarter GDP growth came on the heels of the downwardly revised first-quarter advance, which was revised down from a more robust 6.1-percent gain estimated earlier.

Analysts said the report showed significantly greater weakness than they had expected.

However, they remained optimistic the economy would escape a "double-dip" recession and that, with inflation tame, the Federal Reserve will not rush to push US interest rates up.

"The odds of a double-dip recession are no more than one in four and the Federal Reserve's next (move) should be to raise interest rates, but probably not before March 2003," said economist Mark Vitner of Wachovia Securities in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Analysts said the revisions to last year's GDP, plus the soft second-quarter performance this year, added up to a less robust economic recovery than foreseen, one that will require careful handling.

"It's much weaker than expected, and the downward revision to growth suggests the recession was a little deeper than first estimated," said economist Sal Guatieri of Bank of Montreal/Harris Bank in Toronto. "The Fed is definitely going to be on hold for some time to come."

The Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee next meets to plot interest-rate strategy on Aug. 13. Analysts are united in expecting no shift in borrowing costs.

The GDP report showed company inventories rose at an annual rate of $1 billion in the second quarter, the first such buildup since the closing quarter of 2000.

Inventories were drawn down at a $28.9 billion clip in the first quarter this year.

Inventory-building contributes to economic growth by keeping production rates up but, should demand weaken, it can be a drag on future economic performance.

Commerce revised its GDP data back to the start of 1999, revealing that national economic output contracted for three straight quarters during the first nine months of 2001. The slump handily surpassed a rule-of-thumb definition of a recession as two quarters or more of declining output.

Previously the government had reported that GDP shrank for only one three-month period, during the third quarter last year, which led Bush administration officials to dispute whether the economy had slipped into its first recession in a decade.

Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill still declined to term last year's downturn a recession, telling a group of about 20 business association representatives the economy was "operating at very sluggish levels for the first three quarters of 2001." *Reuters*

US Senate names new Fed members

WASHINGTON—The Senate on Wednesday confirmed the nominations of Ben Bernanke and Donald Kohn to serve on the board of the US Federal Reserve, bringing the powerful policy-setting panel to full strength.

Bernanke, a highly regarded academic expert on monetary policy, and Kohn, the Fed's top staff member and a trusted lieutenant of Fed chair Alan Greenspan, cleared the Senate on a voice vote.

Their approval to the Fed's Washington-based board of governors brings the panel up to full seven-member strength for the first time in four years, barring a few weeks last December when two newcomers overlapped with two departing officials.

The board forms the core of the Federal Open Market Committee, the central bank group that sets interest rates, wielding huge influence over the US economy and financial markets worldwide. Senate confirmation means Bernanke and Kohn could take their posts in time for the next FOMC meeting on Aug. 13.

The nominations were warmly received when announced by President Bush in May. Wall Street economists and former Fed governors said the two candidates could provide continuity should Greenspan leave when his current four-year term as Fed chair ends in June 2004, when he will be 78. *Reuters*

Angry developing nations criticize rich at WTO talks

GENEVA—Developing countries angrily accused rich states on Wednesday of reneging on commitments on textile exports, warning them that they risked damaging crucial negotiations to free up world trade.

Countries such as India and Pakistan, for whom clothes and textiles are major foreign currency earners, have been pressing the European Union and the United States to speed up plans to lower import barriers.

But a Wednesday deadline for an accord at the 144-state World Trade Organization (WTO) passed without any sign the sides could narrow their differences, trade officials said.

Malaysia, which chaired a committee seeking to find a compromise, reported back to WTO's decision-making General Council that no deal had been possible, the officials said.

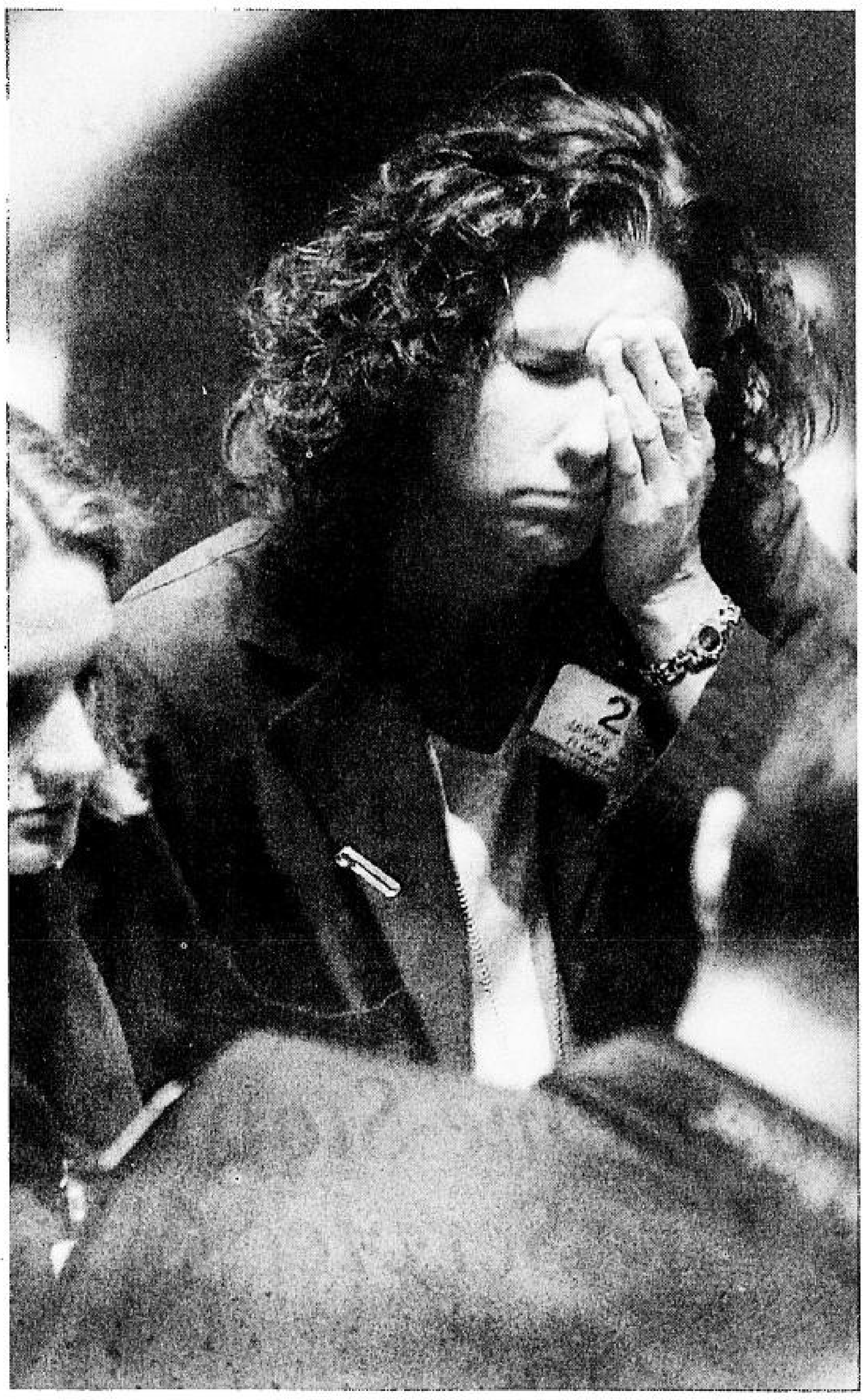
The WTO agreed last November in Doha, Qatar, to launch a new round of trade talks to give a multibillion-dollar boost to the world economy.

The new round was named the Doha Development Agenda to underline that all WTO states should benefit, not just the more economically powerful.

Developing countries, many of which felt they had gained little so far from freer trade and only reluctantly accepted the Doha deal, demand progress in areas such as textiles as proof that the rich states are sincere about development.

"The Doha work program constitutes an overall package, with an emphasis on development. The message that is coming out is that the development message is being jettisoned," India's representative told the General Council.

"If the development aspects are sidelined . . . it will inevitably have an impact on other aspects. Any attempt to drive the work program forward at two speeds would lead to an unraveling of the package," he added. *Reuters*



TRADER Jackie Moran rubs her eyes as she works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Investors concerned about the economic recovery sent stocks lower Wednesday after the government reported the gross domestic product was weaker than expected in the second quarter. AP

WB raised aid to poor nations

WASHINGTON—The World Bank on Wednesday said that it had boosted aid to developing countries more than $2 billion in the most recent fiscal year, as the global economy went into a downturn after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The bank said that aid to developing countries rose to $19.5 billion in the fiscal year to June 30, up from $17.3 billion last year.

"In recent months after the horrific events of Sept. 11, the World Bank moved quickly to help developing countries cope with the aftershocks," the bank's president, James Wolfensohn, said in a statement.

The financial aid provided by the lender included monies to rebuild Afghanistan, which has been torn by a decade of strife and the recent campaign against the former Taliban government.

Aid to Europe and Central Asia increased, with Turkey being the largest single recipient as it coped with a severe financial crisis. Financial aid to Latin America and the Caribbean, however, decreased. *Reuters*

WTO rules against US

GENEVA—The World Trade Organization (WTO) said on Wednesday that it had ruled against the United States in a dispute with the European Union over tariffs imposed by Washington on steel exports from former state-owned firms.

The EU asked the WTO to set up a special disputes panel in August 2001 after negotiations with the United States on the issue failed.

In its ruling, the panel of experts said that the duties were "inconsistent" with so-called safeguard rules that WTO member countries can take to protect their industries.

The EU applauded the decision, which affects steel producers in France, Italy, Sweden, Germany and Britain.

"I call again upon the United States to promptly implement the panel findings and lift all WTO incompatible duties," EU Trade Commission's Pascal Lamy said in a statement. *Reuters*

AOL Time Warner hit by another federal probe

NEW YORK—AOL Time Warner Inc. has been targeted in a federal probe for the second time in as many weeks, disclosing on Wednesday that the US Department of Justice has started an inquiry into accounting practices at its America Online division.

The company issued a statement confirming a report in USA Today on Wednesday that the justice department had opened an investigation into the accounting practices at the beleaguered online unit, and said it will cooperate fully.

The mammoth media company said on July 24 that the US Securities and Exchange Commission had opened an inquiry into the company's accounting.

Shares of AOL Time Warner fell 90 cents, or more than 7 percent, to close at $11.50 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The SEC opened a fact-finding inquiry into AOL after reports in the Washington Post earlier this month raised concerns about accounting practices, including possible inflation of revenue, at the online unit during 2000 and 2001.

"In the current environment, when anyone raises a question about accounting, it's not surprising that the relevant government agencies will want to look into the facts," the company said. "As we said last week, we are cooperating 100 percent with the SEC, and we will cooperate with the Department of Justice as well."

The company reiterated that its accounting was appropriate and in accordance with generally accepted accounting practices, and that its outside auditors have repeatedly confirmed that.

The justice department declined to comment.

Separately, AOL Time Warner's search for a new head for its online unit has been narrowed from a wide list, sources close to the search said on Wednesday. They said Jon Miller, a former top executive at USA Interactive—home to businesses such as Home Shopping Network and Ticketmaster Inc.—is a leading contender for the job.

AOL has been seeking a replacement for AOL Time Warner chief operating officer Robert Pittman, who resigned under pressure only months after he was sent to help lead AOL's recovery. AOL declined to comment on the search.

Lawyers familiar with such inquiries said it was not unusual for the justice department to enter an investigation to see whether the activities being probed were in any way criminal. *Reuters*

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JAPAN'S photo giant Fujifilm unveils the new stamp-sized IC memory "xD-Picture Card," the world's smallest, measuring 20.0 x 25.0 x 1.7 mm and also its lightest weighing only 2 grams for digital camera and other electronics at a Tokyo hotel. Fujifilm will put the 16MB to 256MB cards on the market this year and 512MB to 8GB cards to follow next year. AFP

GE's Immelt certifies conglomerate's financial results

FAIRFIELD, Connecticut—General Electric Co., in a bid to reassure investors, on Wednesday said it would start accounting for stock options as an expense and said its chief had certified the conglomerate's recent financial results.

The Fairfield, Connecticut-based company has been criticized for its complex accounting, which some say make it difficult to determine how the company makes its profits.

"I think they're being proactive on issues that have become important to shareholders in general," said Larry Horan, director of research at Parker Hunter Inc. "It's important for companies with a lot of confidence in their financial statements to come out and say it."

Last week, GE chair Jeff Immelt unveiled a sweeping restructuring plan at GE Capital, splitting the earnings workhorse into four parts. Part of the rationale for the move was to give investors more insight into how GE Capital, the company's finance arm, makes profit.

GE joins the growing list of companies saying that they will expense the cost of stock options granted to employees, following the lead of Coca-Cola Co., which last week announced its adoption of the accounting change.

GE said it would begin to expense its employee stock options starting with the current quarter and said the change would reduce its net income in 2002 by less than $30 million, or below one cent per share.

The expense will increase to about 3 cents per share over the next three to four years as the cost is phased in, GE said. *Reuters*

PLDT board rejects First Pacific's 5-pt plan

By Abigail L. Ho

THE BOARD of directors of the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. yesterday junked First Pacific Co. Ltd.'s five-point plan that would lead to the completion of the sale of a majority stake in PLDT to the Gokongwei Group.

In a letter to First Pacific executive director Ronald Brown, PLDT corporate secretary Ma. Lourdes Rausa-Chan, on behalf of the board, urged the Hong Kong-based firm to cooperate with the PLDT management in working toward further improving the company's operations.

"The board urges you to reflect upon your responsibilities to PLDT and to your fellow shareholders, to examine your proposed transaction in that light and to reach as soon as possible what we believe is the necessary result of that exercise: to abandon this fundamentally flawed transaction and to work together with the board and management team of PLDT in its continuing efforts to revitalize and strengthen the operations and financial results of PLDT for the benefit of all shareholders," Rausa-Chan said in the letter.

The PLDT board, together with its financial and legal advisers, yesterday conducted a detailed review of First Pacific's memorandum of agreement with the Gokongwei Group.

After this thorough review, the PLDT board reiterated its stand, and said that it became even more convinced that the transaction would not serve the best interests of PLDT and its shareholders.

The board pointed out that First Pacific's proposed transaction would "subject PLDT to the control of persons who also control (and have a greater relative economic interest in) PLDT's principal competitor."

Taipan John Gokongwei owns Digital Telecommunications Phil. Inc., the country's second largest landline provider.

Rausa-Chan also pointed out that First Pacific's proposed transaction "mischaracterized" PLDT's connection in the impending sale of the company's shares to the Gokongweis as it was not an open market sale.

In a statement , First Pacific executive vice president Rebecca Brown said the firm was "disappointed" over PLDT's decision."First Pacific is reviewing its implementation alternatives and is proceeding with the transaction. Nonetheless, First Pacific remains open to the possibility of a future meeting should the PLDT board reconsider its position," she said.

US Congress junks RP tuna bid

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE US Congress has granted duty-free access to tuna exports from Andean countries as it ignored an appeal by the Philippine government to give equal treatment to its tuna exports.

In a statement, Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel A. Roxas II said the government was extremely disappointed over the approval of the Andean Trade Preference Expansion Act in an omnibus trade bill that would give duty free access to the United States of goods from Andean countries including tuna.

Roxas said the government would shift its lobbying to the White House and press its demands during the upcoming visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell in the country.

The Philippine government is using its full support to the US government's war against terrorism as a leverage in getting equal treatment for its canned tuna exports to the United States. The US Congress justified the trade perks granted to Andean countries as a means to wean its people away from the narcotics trade.

In the same vein, the Philippine government reasoned that duty-free perks to canned tuna would help solve the insurgency problem in Mindanao where eight tuna canneries employing 17,000 Filipinos were in operation.

The duty-free perks would allow Andean countries to wipe out competition in the US considering that they have the capacity to supply the annual demand of American consumers estimated at 50 million cases annually. The Philippines ships out 4 million cases of canned tuna to the United States a year.

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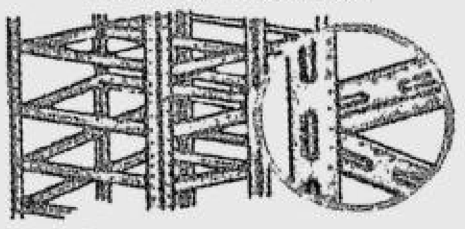

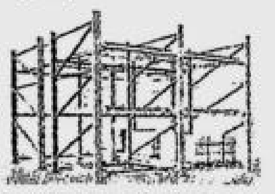

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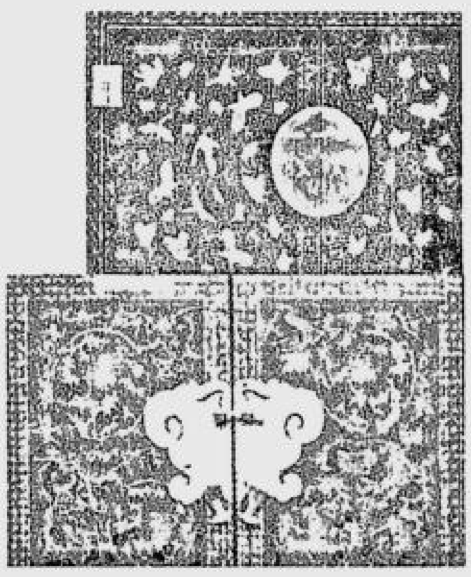

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Gov't seeks dismissal of case filed by SGS

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE GOVERNMENT has asked the International Center for the Settlement of Investment Disputes in Washington to dismiss a case filed against it by Swiss firm Societe Generale de Surveillance, saying that the court lacked jurisdiction over the case.

SGS, an import inspection company, sued the Philippine government before the arbitration court in Washington for its failure to pay P6.05 billion in fees for services rendered from September 1998 to March 2000.

Based on the website of the ICSID under entry no. 36 of the list of pending cases, the SGS case against the Philippines has been accepted and registered on June 6, 2002.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said the government was contesting the case "on the basis of jurisdiction" since the parties—the government and SGS—had previously agreed that any dispute between them would be settled in local courts.

Camacho said the contract entered into by the government and SGS recognized the jurisdiction of a Philippine court to settle any issue between them.

The government's 12-year, P30-billion contract with SGS lapsed in December 1999 but was extended up to March 2000.

In earlier statements, SGS said the Washington arbitration court was an appropriate venue as it was tasked to resolve disputes related to investments.

SGS billed the Philippine government an equivalent of P6.48 billion (206,150,238.14 Swiss francs at an exchange rate of P31.437 to a franc) for services rendered from September 1998 to March 2000.

After reviewing the billing, however, a government task force formed to validate the claims of SGS recommended the deduction of P117.5 million from the bill and further review of another P314 million in the billing.

Camacho said the payment for SGS' claims should be appropriated by Congress in the government's yearly budget. However, the government said that for the 2003 budget, there was no appropriation for the SGS payment.

For this year, the government had intended to pay SGS P3 billion but since it was an unprogrammed expenditure, it would be settled only if the government would have excess funds.

The Department of Budget and Management's plan to chop off P80 billion in expenditure items this year to bridge a widening budget gap dimmed hopes of SGS to make a collection from the government this year.

GOINGS-ON

'Anti-stress card'

UNION Bank recently launched a unique product that combines the convenience of a credit card and the ease of utility card in one.

Lumina Visa card is an international Visa card formed out of a partnership with the country's leading utility companies and Union Bank. It aims to give residential customers more options and convenience in paying utility bills such as electricity, water, cable, telephone and cell phone.

Union Bank president Victor B. Valdepeñas says the partnership with industry giants Meralco, PLDT, Globe and Smart was the bank's first step in introducing the future in finance settlement in the Philippines.

The card, dubbed "the anti-stress utility card," is positioned as a utility card that helps reduce the stress of having to keep track of household utility bills.

Lumina Visa proposes to consolidate all the cardholders' bill payments in one billing.

Secured Future Fund

EAST West Bank has launched its Secured Future Fund, a special five-year savings package that assures depositors of guaranteed yields plus the added security of having insurance benefits for the entire investment period.

"If you have P100,000 today and invest it in the usual 30-day time deposit, you would probably get a little over 2 percent in interest less the usual taxes. Secured Future Fund assures you of earnings more than thrice as much," said Ferdinand G. La Chica, vice president for marketing support of East West Bank.

The interest rate under the Secured Future Fund program, which is fixed for five years, is up to 9.5 percent yearly for investments of P1 million or more, and 9 percent yearly for investments below P1 million (rates can be adjusted depending on market trends). Depositors can avail themselves of the product for a minimum initial investment of only P100,000.

DFA: Not Ople's interregnum

LABOR MANAGEMENT FORUM

Josephus B. Jimenez

FOREIGN affairs secretaries come and go. Carlos P. Romulo was Mr. UN. Vice President Guingona was pro-Filipino rather than anti-American. None has focused on the millions of Filipinos abroad. The most favorable development to OFWs is thus the appointment of a great statesman, a seasoned parliamentarian and a man of wisdom, erudition and compassion, Blas Fajardo Ople, who rose from poverty in Hagonoy, Bulacan, to gain world-class stature in Geneva and in various fora in Asia and the world.

In the life of every great man, there comes a moment of suspended animation, when one ceases to capture the compelling demands of the times or refuses to seize the opportunities of the moment. Sen. B.F. Ople (BFO) once popularized the term "interregnum" to mean some temporary gaps in the overall timeline spanning the journey toward greatness. It would appear then that during the crucial impeachment vote on the opening of the second envelope, BFO had come into an interregnum himself. Today, that interregnum ceases.

BFO's impeachment vote

In the Philippine labor-management circle, no one else but BFO has attained a world-class stature that is respected in international fora. Perhaps, the only other two who could approximate his stature are Pat Sto. Tomas and Nieves Confesor, both BFO's disciplines. In ILO Geneva, whenever BFO stood up to raise a point, delegates from all over the world paused to listen to his wisdom. Thus, when Ka Blas ventured into politics and ended up in the Senate, his "disciples" in the labor circle welcomed it as a resuscitation of their hopes in the legislature. Now, that he had accepted the DFA portfolio, we expect that the OFWs will be given more focus.

When Ople voted along with his 10 colleagues against the motion to open the second envelope containing vital bank documents, we, who hold him in high esteem, have virtually lost hope in the impeachment process. Earlier, when he maintained his silence all throughout the proceedings, we never doubted that in the ultimate moment, he would not fail us. We even boldly told labor leaders and business managers that we who know him well enough were confident that at the end, he would be in the side of the truth.

The guru of the great

In the annals of Philippine history, there has never been any former labor secretary who has gained that level of respectability as the sage from Hagonoy, Bulacan. He is well acclaimed not just as a "guru" of labor and social policies but as a diplomat "par excellence." Even ex-Labor and Justice Secretary Frank Drilon holds him in high esteem. Ex-Sen. Boy Herrera respects him and former labor secretaries, my good friends, Ruben Torres and Cres Trajano, look up to him as a paragon of erudition and eloquence. The first female Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor considers him as mentor and model. Even former Civil Service chair, now Labor Secretary Pat Sto. Tomas, holds BFO in high esteem. It was from BFO's cup of wisdom that all these luminaries used to drink the basics of labor policies.

I cannot speak for all these great personalities who all were under Ople's tutelage during BFO's heydays in DOLE. But I can speak for myself as a minor functionary in the labor bureaucracy, a labor arbiter appointed by the President, upon Ople's endorsement. I can say that I'm quite pleased by the current turn of events. BFO must have spent many sleepless nights agonizing on the crucial issue of leaving the opposition and accepting an offer to head the DFA.

BFO's new windows

To be in the DFA at this juncture in our history can be interpreted by the opposition as BFO's interregnum, a gap in his journey to actively pursue the reshaping of Philippine political developments. It can be discerned as an act of abandonment of duty to hold the opposition together, after Jaworski left it perhaps for a less acceptable reason. It can even be seen as a sheer political opportunism, a last hurrah for an aging philosopher who might have been perceived as having reached his Peter's principle, that level of obsolescence.

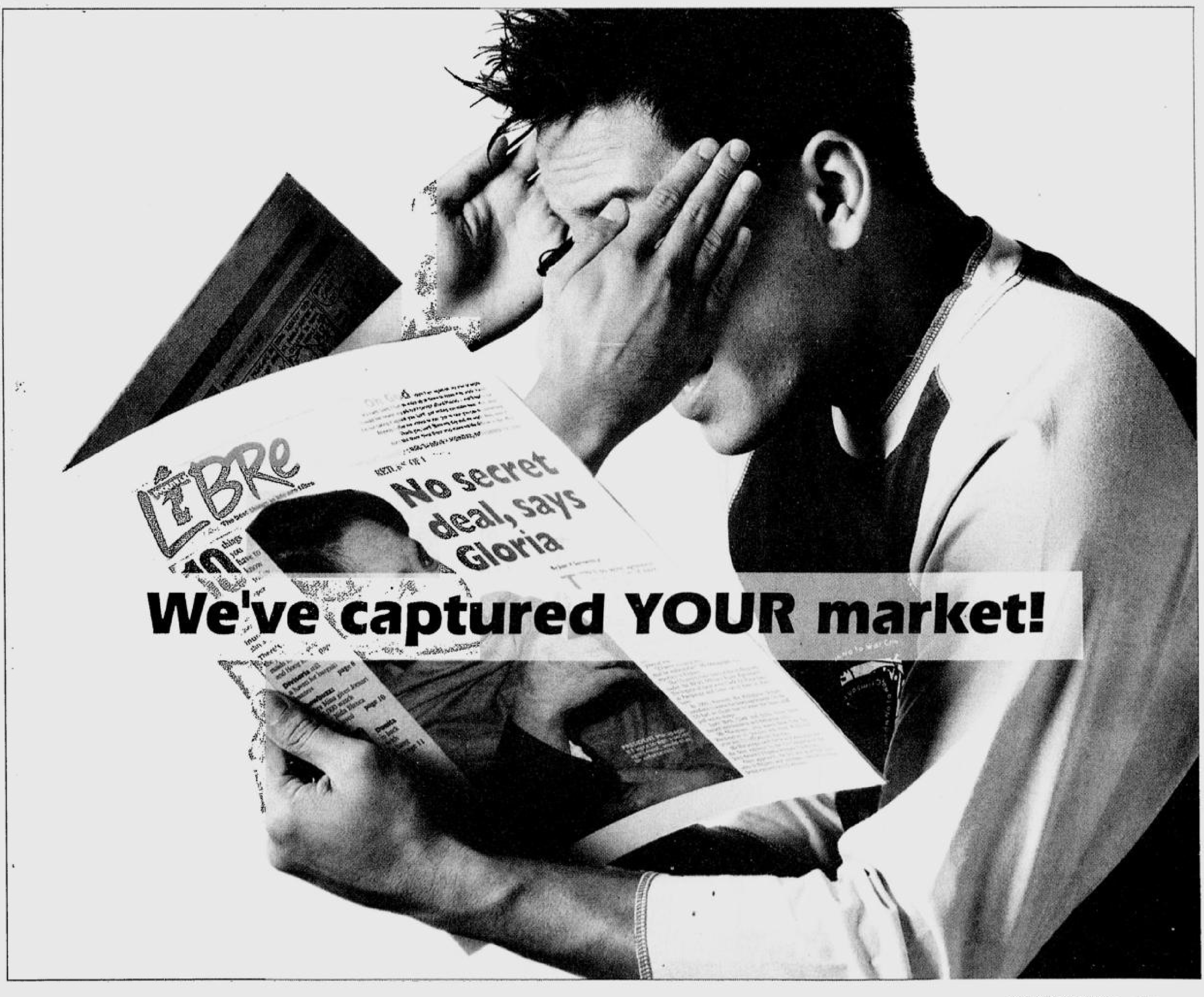
But, on the other hand, BFO's acceptance of the premier Cabinet portfolio can be a window of opportunity to expand his horizons of influence. He can direct the thrust of our foreign policies in the Asean, in the European community and in the Americas. While BFO used to be a rabid anti-American as he always looked with contempt at those Caucasian tourists who insulted Filipino women, he has now mellowed into a more tolerant citizen of the world.

US: Respect and trust

Thus, when US Ambassador Ricciardone committed that diplomatic "faux pas" in criticizing our internal affairs, particularly the endemic graft in both our judiciary and bureaucracy, BFO was the first guy in the Senate who rebuffed such a braggadocio of interference in our internal affairs. But when BFO's appointment to the DFA was made official, the US ambassador issued an official statement expressing confidence in BFO.

Expect BFO to animate Cabinet discussions, to put excitement in press conferences and inject more wisdom in in-

DFA/B9



Libre

DFA

From page B9

ternational deliberations. He will be aided by a top-caliber think tank, perhaps to be composed of such young and dynamic technocrats like Willie Villarama, Nieves Confesor and Benny Laguesma. Of course, Undersecretary Jose Brillantes, another former labor secretary, will ably assist BFO especially in the protection of our OFWs.

BFO-Brillantes team

The team of BFO and Brillantes shall give impetus to our overall thrust to uphold the dignity, right and welfare of the millions of OFWs all over the world. These guys will make sure the POEA and Owwa and the networks of our labor attachés in all our embassies and consular offices shall now work harder and smarter to stamp out exploitation and injustice that plague the working conditions, especially of our undocumented working Filipinos abroad.

This column joins the myriad of BFO fans in wishing Ka Blas the best in this new field of exciting endeavors.

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Q.C. Br. 426-2278 426-4084

Cheap Van 8254058 8261045

BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

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P800/L3 9136710/4333682

STAREX L300 CARS 726-8388

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WANTED TO BUY

BUYING USED CARS 6090215

CAR LOAN

1.5 % EasyCarLoan 4000166 -67

1.5% FAST CAR LOAN 3677523/24

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732083

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

★USED CAR LOAN 7262780

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

FURNITURE

P30T-45Tup Kawal Yamaha O/Bros Cash/Terms 9240834

NOTICE TO ALL CUSTOMERS

FROM: CENTURY CHEMICAL CORPORATION

Please be informed that **OFFICIAL RECEIPT NO. 51728 to 51750** was stolen. Any transactions made after **July 29, 2002** will not be honored. Please be guided.

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

HOME APPLIANCE

CLOSURE SALE: Washing Mach. Bnew 6436927/0917-3312287

PETS

Dalma Pupy 3F 5M w/Vacc. 0917-9165889 • 952-4220

DOG TRAINER 4528681

ROTTWEILER PUPS Champin 0917-8994800/0917-8372007

SPORTING GOODS

BILLIARDS P30/33/36/38T A1 Qlty B.New 8014494/8020566

WANTED TO BUY

ANY ROLEX
Buy / Sell / Pawn / Repair
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B/SELL EDUC'L 8061574

BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH
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DFCTIVE TV/COMPO 7325865

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Buy/Pawn Diamonds T834-2886

WE BUY AT HIGH PRICE
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MISCELLANEOUS

B/SELL EDUC PLAN
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MALE/FEMALE

★OFFICE STAFF★
18-45,w/ w/o exp START ASAP
913-4470 Look for ZOBEL

Bticlan allow comm 1372 Quezon Ave. T-3736692 Gale

DepEd Marikina City OSEC - DECSB - PHNI 30114-1998 NURSING BOARD PASSER

FREE Care Giver Seminar 5614990 5638009

★ OFC STAFF ★
18-25 yrs old M/F w/w/o exp. Start Asap 913-4470 Angel

★Office Staff 18-45yrs old Coll level/grad 4370152 Shie

HRDSTF 09202645872 REXIE

★Urgent Ofc Personnel★
14/45 w/ w/o exp 9134470 Rica

OFC STF 09202061665 AL

URGENT! OFC STAFF DIRECT HIRING 913-4470 MR. TROY

PUBLIC NOTICES

MALE/FEMALE

Yaya Maid Crew 9254153/57

PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

WE ARE LOOKING FOR HIRE M95&up L300FB Kia Ceres 9325160/9329259 Call asap

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the intestate estate of the late FELICISIMA RELUCIO MAKALINAO was settled by the heirs by Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement with Special Power of Attorney per Doc. No. 178; Page No. 37; Book No. 116; Series of 2002 of Notary Public Gregorio D. David, Jr. of Manila.
(PDI-July19,26 & Aug.2,2002)

Notice is hereby given that JOSE E.A. CAMPA—ANO executed an Extrajudicial Settlement and Partition with Waiver for TCT 1878, Cagayan Province, on July 18, 2002 as per Doc. No. 109, Page No. 75, Book No. 14, Series of 2002 of the Notary Public Celso Aningat of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 2, 9 & 16, 2002)

Notice is hereby given that the estates of the late BEATRIZ SIPIN and CRISPULO C. SIPIN, SR. which consist of two (2) lots situated in Mangatarem, Pangasinan (covered by TD Nos. 168 and 167) have been the subject of extrajudicial settlement on August 01, 2002 by and among their children and compulsory heirs CRISPULO SIPIN, JR., TERESITA S. CAGAMPAN, ELEANOR S. ANGELES and SONIA S. SCANLAN as evidenced by that document executed and acknowledged before Notary Public, Atty. Mario Eugenio V. Lim and entered in his Notarial Register as Doc No. 14, Page No 4, Book No. 1, Series of 2002
PDI-Aug. 2, 9 & 16, 2002

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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www.giathailand.com

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Please be informed that the following personnel are no longer connected with Net Ship Management Inc. formerly Onboard Marine Exponents Corp.:

1. Judith C. Abilgos
2. Edna D. Amor
3. Imelda Z. Rabayna
4. Amelia Tabernilla
5. Analyn N. Zambrona

Any transaction entered by them in behalf of the company shall not be honored.

Net Ship Management Inc.

(PDI – Aug. 2, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

Business w/Travel
0916-9368917

EARN FROM HOME 847-6341

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0917-3497249•0919-8457226

PUBLIC NOTICES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Supervisors P/F Time 8376068

Travel Now Ask Me How
0917-8371152

NOTICE OF LOSS

CENTRAL AZUCARERA DON PEDRO CERTIFICATE #119380 - 39,000 shares #114086 - 30,000 shares under the name of Tomas Go were declared lost. If no contest is received w/in 1 year new certificate will be issued.
(PDI - July 19, 26, Aug. 2, 2002)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal,You who give the divine gift to forgive & forget the wrong that is done to me & who, in all instances of my life, is with me. I, in this dialogue, want to thank you for everything & confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desires may be. I want to be with You & my love ones in your perpetual glory. Amen CJC

Person must pray this 3 consecutive days without starting one's wish. After 3rd day your wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Promise to publish this soon as your favor has been granted.

THANK YOU MAMA MARY

Thank You Holy Spirit - OLC

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in Luzon

Bakit lalayo ka pa? Sa **INQUIRER**, *convenient na sulit pa!*

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Maharlika Livelihood Center
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Cell No (0919) 321-5036
Mr. Victor Navarro
Pines City News Agency
#2060 Mt. Province Alley
2nd Floor Maharlika Livelihood Center
Baguio City
Tel Nos (074) 443-4533/442-5080/443-4381/443-5524
Mr. Rey Elatan
Cora's News Agency
#6 City Market Building
Magsaysay Avenue Baguio City
Tel Nos (074) 443-8566/444-5098
Cell No (0917) 905-7234
Mr. Juanito Castro c/o Ms. Ruby Castro
J & R Agency
Parking Lot Upper Mabini Street
(fronting Victoria Supermart) Baguio City
Tel No (074) 444-6526
Cell No (0919) 832-6322
Batangas City
Mr. Romero Clarin c/o Ms. Wilma C. Dayrit
RVC Newsland, 7 P. Burgos Street
Batangas City
Tel Nos (043) 723-4426/924-1823
Mr. Ramon P. Perez c/o Ms. Dodie Simon
Perez Educational & Magazine Store
R&S Perez Building, 46 D. Silang Street
Batangas City
Tel Nos (043) 723-0616, (043) 980-6942
Bulacan
Mr. Manolo Iñigo c/o Ms. Thelma Iñigo
Fausta Village Tabing-ilog, Marilao, Bulacan
Telefax No (044) 933-1214
EasyCall 141-287284
Mr. Rodolfo D. Gregorio
203 Rizal Street, Tarcan, Baliwag, Bulacan
Tel No (044) 766-1290
Office: Care Communications
Baliwag Shopping Center
2nd Floor BMG Building Barrera Street
Poblacion Baliwag Bulacan
Cell No (0919) 407-0048
Cabanatuan City
Mr. Ruel Capule
#7 Santander Street, Kapt. Pepe Subdivision
Cabanatuan City Nueva Ecija
Tel No (044) 463-0623
Mr. Hayward Pablo
#837 Zulueta Street Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija
Tel No (044) 463-2002

Nueva Vizcaya
Himmler John L. Manzano c/o Ms. Jenny Manzano
Nueva Vizcaya Travel & Tours
Poblacion North Solano Nueva Vizcaya
Telefax Nos (078) 3267172/326-7776
Cell No (0917) 849-3069
Pampanga
Mr. Noel Cabasro
Lot 4 Block 20 Phase II corner
St. Peter and St. Jude Streets, St. Jude Village
San Fernando Pampanga
Tel Nos (045) 963-3718 (0918) 595-6249
Gopaco Building Dolores Homesite McArthur Highway
Dolores San Fernando Pampanga
Tel Nos (045) 961-3797/860-4132
E-mail cherumi@pamp.pworld.net.ph
Pangasinan
Mr. Vic Chua
JVC Cargo Forwarders Co. Ltd.
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Mr. Mario Novales
Marigold Bookstore
AB Fernandez Avenue Dagupan City, Pangasinan
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Mr. Herminio Romero
Romero's Trading
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Tel Nos (075) 523-6504/523-6872
Puerto Princesa
Ms. Angelita Leonor c/o Ms. Mabel Mercado
Leonor's Minimart
Moreeca Building E. Valencia Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel Nos (048) 433-2531/433-2551/433-6002
Mr. Tomas Choy Tan
40 Quezon Street, Puerto Princesa City
Tel No (048) 433-2892
Cell No (0919) 275-8118
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E-mail pobre@cag.pworld.net.ph
Tarlac City
Mr. Erlie I. Duduaco c/o E.D. Batteries
F. Tañedo Street Tarlac City
Tel No (045) 982-0683
Cell No (0917) 440-0551
Fax No (045) 982-1788
Laguna
Mr. Fernando B. Hernadez
Residence #10 Mansion Street
Marquita Pueblo Dita Sta. Rosa, Laguna
Tel Nos (049) 531-2778/837-3623
Cell No (0917) 500-7060
Store #250 J.P. Rizal Street, Cabuyao, Laguna
Tel No (049) 531-4829

Laguna
Ms. Susan D. Baybay
MSC Data Exchange Co.
65 Paseo de Escudero San Pablo City
Tel No (049) 562-4597
Fax No (049) 562-1444
E-mail sbaybay@msc.edu.ph
Isabela
Ms. Alice Pue Uy
Lola's Store
Rizal Street, Cauayan, Isabela
Tel No (078) 652-2279
Ms. Catalina Javier c/o Jojo Javier
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SM Prieto Marketing
Quezon Avenue Legaspi City
Tel Nos (052) 214-3043/214-3648/820-3748
Fax No (052) 214-3043
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Ms. Matilde Manlego c/o Ms. Rose Perce
Little Way Shop
Cathedral Commercial Center
CM Recto Avenue Lipa City
Tel Nos (043) 312-3189/312-2408/756-1330
E-mail mvrinsur@ala-eh.net
Naga City
Mr. Ramon B. Sia
RS Newspaper & Magazine Headquarters
Stall Nos 33, 35 & 37, Ground Floor Supermarket
General Luna Street, Naga City
Tel No (054) 473-8711
Quezon City
Mr. Antonio Feliciano c/o Ms. Jean
Germalin Enterprise
397 Tandang Sora Avenue, Culiat, Quezon City
Tel Nos 951-7468/931-0106
Rizal
Mr. Jesus Dimagiba
191 Col. Guido Street, Angono, Rizal
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PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF CATBALOGAN (Western Samar), INC. (RBCI)

The Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) will start its operations for the servicing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Rural Bank of Catbalogan (Western Samar), Inc.** on **August 2, 2002.**

Depositors are advised to proceed to designated payoff sites on dates indicated in the schedule (please refer to table below), to file their claims for insured deposits. Claim forms will be issued free of charge. PDIC representatives shall service claims and entertain queries of depositors during office hours, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

Also, PDIC has designated Land Bank of the Philippines (LBP) – Catbalogan Branch as its paying agent for RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Head Office. Numbers of approved claims filed with RBCI – Head Office that have been turned over by PDIC representatives to LBP shall be posted at the payoff site. Depositors are therefore requested to refer to these numbers before proceeding to the LBP servicing branch for payment of claims. Duly processed claims in all the 7 branches of RBCI shall be paid by PDIC Disbursing Officers.

Servicing Dates	Payoff Site	RBCI Office/ Branch	LBP Servicing Branch
August 2 to August 15, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Head Office Pier I, Curry Ave., Poblacion, Catbalogan, Western Samar	Catbalogan, *Head Office*	LBP-Catbalogan Branch
	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Borongan Branch S. Montes and P. Limbauan Sts., Borongan, Eastern Samar	Borongan and McArthur	
August 2 to August 8, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Calbiga Branch National Road, Brgy. 4 Calbiga, Western Samar	Calbiga	
August 2 to August 6, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Sulat Branch Cor. Opino and Aserios Sts., Brgy. Mara-mara, Sulat, Eastern Samar	Sulat	
	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Guiuan Branch Lugay St., Guiuan, Eastern Samar	Guiuan	
August 9 to August 15, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Llorente Branch Escalo St., Brgy. 11 Llorente, Eastern Samar	Llorente	
August 9 to August 21, 2002	RB Catbalogan, Inc. – Dolores Branch 543rd ECB St., Dolores, Eastern Samar	Dolores	

After the said dates, all depositors can file their claims personally at the PDIC office from Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., or by mail addressed to –

The Manager
Claims Processing Department
Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation
2228 Chino Roces Avenue, 1231 Makati City

Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to the PDIC representatives when filing their claims for insured deposits:

a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
b. Two (2) latest identification cards/documents (IDs) bearing the depositor's specimen signature.

Other documents may be required by the PDIC representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed **Rural Bank of Catbalogan (Western Samar), Inc.** is on **December 9, 2003.** After **December 9, 2003,** PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI – Aug 1 & 2, 2002)

WARNING NOTICE

For and on behalf of our client, HELLA KG HUECK & CO., a corporation organized and existing under the Laws of Germany, with its principal Office at Rixbacker, Strasse 75, 59552 Lippstadt, Germany, the right holder and therefore sole proprietor in the Philippines of the "HELLA" trademark registration number No. 26241, dated 13 September 1978 (hereinafter referred as "TRADEMARK").

The trademark is the exclusive property of our client, applied to and used in respect of accessories and parts for motor vehicles and including HELLA Relays, HELLA Super Tone-Horn, HELLA Disc Horn and HELLA Keong Horn.

HELLA

It has been discovered that there are many counterfeit products in the Philippine market, to which the "HELLA" trademark have been unlawfully applied. We hereby give notice that stern legal actions will be taken against any person who uses the trademark or any trademark having similarity in principle or in its entirety or any colorable imitation of the goods bearing the trademark for same kinds of goods, or who otherwise infringes the rights of the trademark, including but not limited to manufacturing, selling, distributing, exporting, importing, or by keeping in stock of the counterfeit products.

The legal actions will include claims for damages, confiscation of counterfeit products, imprisonment and/or fines, as stipulated in Section 155 and 168 in Relation to Section 170 of Republic Act 8293.

We hereby give notice to all parties concerned to immediately cease, manufacturing, selling, distributing, exporting, and/or importing and to withdraw the counterfeit products from the market for destruction within **14 (fourteen) days** as of today. Our client also wishes to extend this warning to legitimate importers, dealers, distributors and the public/consumers in general, to be aware of counterfeit products.

HELLA KG HUECK & CO.
Rixbacker, Strasse 75
59552 Lippstadt
Germany

PINKERTON CONSULTING SERVICES INC. PHILIPPINES
2/F Corinthian Plaza Building
121 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village
Makati City 1226
Attn.: John F. Walker

(PDI – Aug. 2, 2002)

TransCo

National Transmission Corporation

North Luzon TransCo

BAC-RCMO-2002-07-138
July 22, 2002

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
Project No. ELIG2002TRANSCOLI327

All parties interested to participate in the bidding of SECURITY SERVICES for the following offices and installations are hereby invited to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid with the National Transmission Corporation - North Luzon Transco. Only eligible applicants shall be invited to participate in the bidding.

ELIG2002TRANSCOLI327 : Supply and Security Services for:

Package 1 :
- a. Kadampat S/S - Bolo, Labrador, Pangasinan
- b. Old Labrador S/S - San Gonzalo, Labrador, Pangasinan
- c. Cabanatuan S/S - Sumacab Este, Cabanatuan City
- d. Mangaldan S/S - Mangaldan, Pangasinan
- e. Carmen S/S - Carmen, Rosales, Pangasinan

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 14,042,656.56

Package 2 :
- a. Botolan S/S - Santiago, Botolan, Zambales
- b. Mariveles Load-end S/S - Mariveles, Bataan
- c. Morong Load-end S/S - Morong, Bataan
- d. Tarlac S/S - Concepcion, Tarlac

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 7,942,881.60

Package 3 :
- a. Cruz-Na-Daan S/S - San Rafael, Bulacan
- b. Baesa ROW and Demo Site, Baesa, Quezon City

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 6,841,475.04

Package 4 :
- a. PSMD-North - Poro Point, San Fernando City, La Union
- b. Laoag S/S - Laoag City, Ilocos Norte
- c. Currimao S/S - Currimao, Ilocos Norte

APPROVED AGENCY ESTIMATE (AAE) : Php 5,357,109.12

Application for Eligibility and to Bid is extended to all private Security Agencies which are:

(a) Actively registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and/or Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
(b) With regular License to Operate issued by the Security Agency and Guards Supervisory Division (SAGSD), Philippine National Police (PNP); and
(c) Have been operating for at least two (2) years and have actually and continuously posted at least two hundred (200) guards during the past two (2) years immediately preceding the submission of application for eligibility.

All incumbent service contractors who are interested to participate in the Application for Eligibility and to Bid are required to apply for eligibility.

Contract period is for two (2) years unless sooner terminated.

Eligibility documents will be available for issuance from ***August 7, 2002 to August 12, 2002, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), National Transmission Corporation, North Luzon TransCo, Second Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City, upon submission of:*** (1) an application addressed to the CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) c/o RCMO, (2) certified true copy of Applicant's License to Operate and presentation of its original copy for authentication, (3) presentation of NEWS AD clipping, and (4) payment of non-refundable fee of Six Hundred Pesos (P600.00) per Package. Requests by mail, fax or telegram will not be entertained. Submission of duly accomplished Eligibility Forms and Bid Documents shall be on **August 21, 2002 from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM only at RCMO, North Luzon TransCo. official time is RCMO's** clock.

The eligibility conference will be on **August 19, 2002, 9:00 AM** at NLRO Conference Room, Second Floor, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City.

National Transmission Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all applications for eligibility and to bid without offering any reason, waive any defect therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

All documents to be submitted must be addressed to THE CHAIRMAN, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), c/o MR. JAIME G. MATEO, Section Chief, Regional Contracts Management Office (RCMO), North Luzon Transco, National Transmission Corporation, Second Basement, Plaza Natalia Building, 51 Naguilian Road, Baguio City. All additional information shall be furnished upon request at the address given above at Tel. No. (074) 445-4546.

(Sgd.) **FLORENDO C. DE LUNA**
Actg. Manager
Administration Division
North Luzon TransCo

(PDI – July 26 & August 2, 2002)

National Power Corporation

Small Power Utilities Group
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

For the SALE of Waste Oil

"as is, where is"

Date of Bid Opening : August 15, 2002

ITEM DESCRIPTION/LOCATION	MINIMUM BID PRICE
532,400 Liters of WASTE OIL (Bunker) at Power Barge 103, Bo. Obrero, Iloilo City	P 2.00/Li

Sealed bids in the prescribed form shall be received until the abovestated date, 10:00 AM at NPC-SPUG Office, 3/F Building 1, NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City and shall then and there be opened and publicly read.

ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

1. PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE; and
2. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN OF THE BIDDER (2001) OR FINANCIAL STATEMENT OF THE COMPANY (ORIGINAL OR BIR CERTIFIED TRUE COPY)
3. ANY OF THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:
   For Treater/Recycler : DENR Hazardous Waste Generator's ID
   For Transporter : DENR Certificate of Registration

Additional information, request for inspection and bid forms at P50.00 per set may be secured from Ms. P.F. VICTORIA at the above address or call Tel. No. 9228449/9213541 Local 5583.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality found therein and to accept/reject such proposals as may be advantageous to its interest.

SPUG ASSET MANAGEMENT SUB-COMMITTEE

(Sgd.) **R. C. CASTILLO**
Chairman

(PDI--July 31, Aug. 1 & 2, 2002)

PNOC
The Energy Company

PNOC - Energy Development Corporation

Energy Center, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila
Telephone 8931320 loc. 5115 Fax 8401461

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Energy Development Corporation (PNOC-EDC) invites Contractors classified by and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as IAC SMALL B in Electrical Works or General Building - Building and Industrial Plants to apply for pre-qualification/ eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the project:

ALBAY RURAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT
STAGE 2, SCHEDULE 1 (2 Barangays)
under Bid/Project No. EDC 02-162

The work calls for the supply of minor materials, labor, supervision, equipment, tools, consumables, including the supply, delivery, installation, testing and commissioning and other services necessary to provide electric power supply to two (2) Barangays located in the towns of Albay.

The pre-qualification/eligibility forms may be secured from the Contracts Administration Group (c/o I. M. Corcuera) starting **August 2, 2002, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Hundred Pesos (PhP100.00).

The pre-qualification/eligibility documents must be submitted to the Contracts Administration Group not later than **5:00 p.m. of August 16, 2002.**

Bid documents shall be issued to eligible Contractors starting **August 26, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (PhP 1,000.00).

For purposes of clarifying certain issues, a pre-bid conference will be held on **September 13, 2002**, 9:00 a.m. at Alicia Hotel, Legazpi City. Site inspection to follow thereafter.

Sealed bids in three (3) sets shall be received by the Contracts Administration Group at the above address not later than 2:00 p.m. of **September 24, 2002** then to be publicly opened immediately thereafter

PNOC-EDC reserves the right to reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any informality therein, to accept such bids or to award any part of the work to any bidder whose bid is considered most advantageous to PNOC-EDC.

(Sgd.) **ESTER R. GUERZON**
Manager, Operations Services Division

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2002)

Republika ng Pilipinas
PANGASIWAAN NG TUBIG AT ALKANTARILYA
SA METRO MANILA
Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City 1105, Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the cost of Manila Second Sewerage Project (MSSP) and is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Instruments and Accessories.

MWSS now invites se aled bids, under the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedure, from eligible bidders for Contract No. MSSP-5D-3: Supply and Delivery of Laboratory Instruments and Accessories.

Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of:

The Manager, Purchasing Department
Basement, Maynilad Water Services, Inc.
MWSS Complex, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City
Metro Manila, Philippines Fax No. (632) 928-2303

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by any interested eligible bidder upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in cash or in check payable to Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) in the amount of Php 2,500.00.

All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of not less than 2% of the bid amount and must be delivered **on or before 2:00 p.m. September 29, 2002** to:

MWSS PBAC
MWSS Engineering and Project Management Department
G/F, Eng'g. Bldg., Metropolitan Waterworks
& Sewerage System
Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City, Philippines
Tel. No. 922-2568
Fax No. 920-5413

Late bids will not be accepted. The official time shall be based on the bundy clock located at the MWSS PBAC office.

All affiliated companies of the Maynilad Water Services, Inc. (MWSI) are disqualified from taking part in the bid. Affiliated companies are those over which the concessionaires exercise control of voting stocks or which operate with them as part of a system or enterprise. They shall include, but not limited to those corporations which are subsidiaries, or owned or controlled by the concessionaires, or corporations in which the concessionaires have substantial interest. Bidders are required to submit together with the bid a sworn statement that the bidder is not an affiliated/associated company of MWSI.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives at 2:00 p.m. on September 9, 2002 at the office of the MWSS PBAC, Ground Floor, Engineering Building, MWSS Compound, Katipunan Road, Balara, Quezon City.

A pre-Bid Conference will be conducted at the MWSS, Deputy Administrator Conference Room, Ground Floor, Engineering Building on **August 27, 2002** at 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) **ORLANDO C. HONDRADE**
Administrator

(PDI - Aug. 2, 2002)

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"And we know that to them that love God,
all things work together for good, even to them
that are called according to His purpose."

MARIANO "NITONG" A. MARQUEZ-LIM

of Iloilo City

Born on September 1, 1924

Was gently called by our Creator
on July 31, 2002

His loving wife **Elving**; his children and grandchildren **Yoli** and **Ritzi** (†) **Altavas**, **Dax**, **Lee**, and **Cale**; **Gene** and **Bert Villena**, **Jin-jin**; **Ida** and **Tim Siason**, **Dino** and **Alfonso**; **Butch** and **Ma. Fe Mirasol**, **Camille**, **Mark**, **Nico**, and **James**, request the reader to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence in Jaro, Iloilo City.

Interment will be at the Iloilo Memorial Park, Balantang, Jaro on Monday, August 5 after the Requiem Mass at 9:00 AM, Jaro Cathedral.

"Jesus, I trust in You."

FR. JEAN G. DESAUTELS, S.J.

was called home to the Lord on Thursday, 1 August 2002.

Wake: Xavier School, Multipurpose Center,
64 Xavier St., Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila
Concelebrated Mass every evening at 8:00 p.m.

Funeral Mass: at 8:30 in the morning of Tuesday, 6th August in the Xavier School Multipurpose Center.

Interment: Sacred Heart Novitiate Cemetery, Novaliches, Quezon City, immediately after the Funeral Mass.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF HIS SOUL.
(Instead of flowers, please send donations to the Xavier School Educational Trust Fund)

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

In Loving Memory of

LIM HENG

who joined his Creator on July 29, 2002 at the age of 84.

His beloved wife YU PAK (KETTY) TAN; children and spouses ***Edita L. Chua & Jesus Chua, Nora L. Borbe & Koc Suan Borbe, Teddy Lim & Caroline Tanunliong Lim, Danilo Lim & Violeta Azarraga Lim, Helen L. Uy & Rodolfo Uy, Elena Lim, Rico Lim, Lim Heng Jr. & Nonette Bantoc Lim, Gil Lim & Jean Go Lim, Jimmy Lim & Rosalind Yulo Que Lim;*** *grandchildren and great grandchildren, all relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.*

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Chapel 5, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on August 3, 2002 at 9:00 a.m. at the Manila Memorial Park, Dasmariñas, Cavite.

"Come to Me all of you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."

Matthew 11:28

Flaviano Estomo Fucoy, Sr.

Of Panglao, Bohol and Pagadian City

Peacefully joined his Creator on July 31, 2002
at the age of 92.

His bereaved wife **Remedios**; children **Inday** & **Nick**, **Nonong** & **Nonie**, **Eddie** & **Arlene**, **Titos** & **Roger**, **Marmie**, **Nicky** & **Maryann**, **Robbie** & **Rowena**, **Manny**, **Dick** & **Nellie**; grandchildren **Trixie**, **Yanky**, **Ina**, **Mikey**, **Toni**, **Gia**, **Bogey**, **Jaako**, **Kutchie**, **Mico**, **Tiptip**, **Anton**, **Alyssa**, **Andrea**, **Gado**, **Tintin**, **Kyle**, **Franca**, **Paula**, **Bibo** & **Nia**; his brother **Fermin**; and other relatives mourn his passing and pray for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the family residence at 001 Jamisola Street, Pagadian City.

Interment will be on Monday, August 5, 2002 at Sto. Niño Memorial Park after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at Sto. Niño Cathedral, Pagadian City.

Our beloved Mommy,
doting grandmother, and treasured friend

TRINIDAD ERFE CAMPOMANES

of San Fabian, Pangasinan

Peacefully joined our Creator on August 1, 2002
at the age of 86.

She joined her loving husband **Yoyong**.

Her children **Ed** and **Kitty**, **Jake** and **Emmeline**, **Baby** and **Tommy Achacoso**; grandchildren **Alex** and **Lisa**, **Michelle** and **Bubba**, **Marc**, **Ningning** and **Vince**, **Patrick**, **Joey** and **Heidi**; and great-grandson **Sandro**, relatives and friends request the readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Magallanes Chapel.

Cremation will follow the 10:00 a.m. Mass
on Sunday at Magallanes.

Welcome home, Nanay.

WE DESIGN OBITUARIES FOR FREE.

PLACIDO CRUZ RAMIREZ

of Brgy. Kapitolyo, Pasig City

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on August 1, 2002 at the age of 90.

He is survived by his wife **Josefina**; children and spouses **Edgar** & **Jasmin**, **Ocay** & **Nitz**, **Emilie** & **Rod**, **Gerry** & **Charmian**, **Caloy** & **Marlen**; grandchildren **Bongbong**, **Jennifer**, **Panpan**, **Mitchie**, **Michael**, **Mae**, **Patrick**, **Kathy**, **Kiti**, **Paolo**; great grandchildren, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels, EDSA, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be announced later.

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The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

ALCORN
Gold Resources Corporation

With its deepest sympathy
offers its condolences
to the family of its

Chairman

LUIS CO CHI KIAT

who peacefully joined his Creator
on July 31, 2002

His remains lie in state at
Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

FONTANA
LEISURE PARKS

Fontana Development Corporation
Fontana Resort & Country Club

Express their deep sorrow
and their sincerest condolences
to the family of their beloved

Chairman Emeritus

LUIS CO CHI KIAT

who peacefully joined his Creator
on July 31, 2002

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

PureGold Duty Free, Inc.
Subic & Clark
PureGold Price Club, Inc.
Shaw, Tayuman & Parañaque

Extend its deepest sympathies and condolences
to the family, relatives and friends
of its beloved

Chairman/Chairman Emeritus

LUIS CO CHI KIAT

who peacefully passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on July 31, 2002 at the age of 84.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 2, La Funeraria Paz,
Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be announced later.

"Yes, though I walk through the valley of the
shadows of death, I will fear no harm; for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

The Stockholders, Board of Directors,
Officers and Staff of

PureGold Finance, Inc.
PureGold Properties, Inc.
PureGold Aviation, Inc.

Express their deep sorrow
and their sincerest condolences
to the family of their beloved

Chairman Emeritus

LUIS CO CHI KIAT

who peacefully joined his Creator
on July 31, 2002

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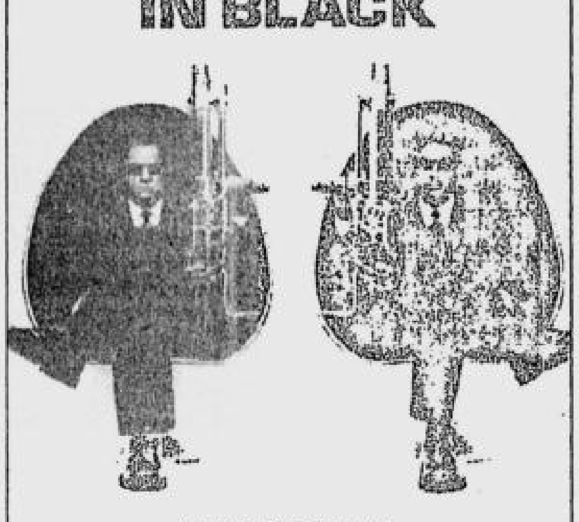

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6	WINDTALKERS
7	
8	

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3	

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2	
3	
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	GALING MO BABES
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8 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
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5	GALING MO BABES
6 (DOLBY)	STUART LITTLE 2
7 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
8	RESERVE
9	RESERVE

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1 (DTS)	
2	
3	
4	GALING MO BABES
5 (SDDS)	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
8	PAKISABI NA LANG

Gotesco Ortigas
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2	STUART LITTLE 2
3 (DTS)	WINDTALKERS
4	PAKISABI NA LANG .
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Universal
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Sampaquita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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Dilson
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2	GALING MO BABES
3	WINDTALKERS

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3	

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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1 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
5	RESERVE

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1	
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6	

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1	
2	

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1	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES

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1	
2	

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1	PAKISABI NA LANG
2	GALING MO BABES
3 (DTS)	STUART LITTLE 2

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(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	PAKISABI NA LANG . .
2 (DTS)	GALING MO BABES
3 (DOLBY)	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
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4	GALING MO BABES

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4	

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3	IKA PITONG GLORYA
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2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	GALING MO BABES

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1	WINDTALKERS
2	STUART LITTLE 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG .

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1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

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2	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
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2	PAKISABI NA LANG .
3	MEN IN BLACK 2

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2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	DRAGONFLY

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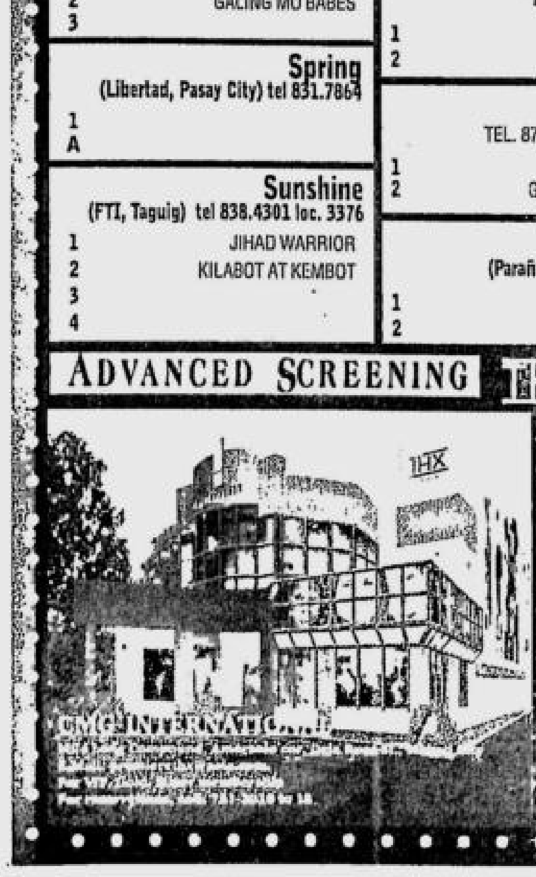

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7	DOG SOLDIERS
8	SORORITY BOYS

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4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	WINDTALKERS
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8	SORORITY BOYS
9	STUART LITTLE 2
10	DOG SOLDIERS

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1	GALING MO BABES
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	MEGIDDO
4	WINDTALKERS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS
9	DOG SOLDIERS
10	MINORITY REPORT
11	MAGENTA
12	GALING MO BABES

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	STUART LITTLE 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	MEGIDDO
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	SORORITY BOYS
8	MINORITY REPORT
9	GALING MO BABES
10	HIGH CRIMES
11	DOG SOLDIERS
12	PAKI SABI NA LANG . . .

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1	WINDTALKERS
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	MEN IN BLACK 2
4	WINDTALKERS
5	DOG SOLDIERS
6	MINORITY REPORT
7	THIRD WHEEL
8	HIGH CRIMES
9	GALING MO BABES
10	STUART LITTLE 2
11	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
12	MEGIDDO

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	MEGIDDO
2	SORORITY BOYS
3	GALING MO BABES
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	WINDTALKERS
8	MEN IN BLACK 2

SM SOUTHMALL
8068888

1	SORORITY BOYS
2	DOG SOLDIERS
3	WINDTALKERS
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MINORITY REPORT
6	WINDTALKERS
7	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
8	MEN IN BLACK 2
9	MEGIDDO
10	GALING MO BABES

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	JUST VISITING
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	CROSSROADS
7	GALING MO BABES
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1	SUGAT
2	CLOSED
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	WINDTALKERS
5	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	CLOSED
8	WINDTALKERS

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	DOG SOLDIERS
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	PAKI SABI NA LANG . . .

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1	GALING MO BABES
2	WINDTALKERS
3	STUART LITTLE 2
4	MEGIDDO

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1	WINDTALKERS
2	GALING MO BABES
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	STUART LITTLE 2

SM CITY DAVAO
2976998

1	WINDTALKERS
2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	THIRD WHEEL
4	SLACKERS
5	WINDTALKERS
6	MEN IN BLACK 2

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2
3
4

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SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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2	WINDTALKERS
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4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	WINDTALKERS
7	MEGIDDO
8	STUART LITTLE 2
9	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
10	GALING MO BABES

Ermita
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1	WINDTALKERS
2	MEN IN BLACK 2
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	GALING MO BABES
6	STUART LITTLE 2
7	MEGIDDO

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1	MEN IN BLACK 2
2	WINDTALKERS
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	GALING MO BABES
6	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
7	WINDTALKERS
8	SORORITY BOYS

Novaliches
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2	WINDTALKERS
3	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
4	SORORITY BOYS
5	STUART LITTLE 2
6	MEN IN BLACK 2
7	GALING MO BABES
8	MEGIDDO

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2	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
3	MEGIDDO
4	STUART LITTLE 2
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	GALING MO BABES

Bacolod
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2	LEGEND OF TITANIC
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	MEN IN BLACK 2
5	SORORITY BOYS
6	KAPALIT

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	WINDTALKERS
2	LIFE OR SOMETHING LIKE IT
3	A WALK TO REMEMBER
4	PAKISABI NA LANG . . .
5	MEN IN BLACK 2
6	WINDTALKERS

Star Mills- Sn Fernando, Pamp.
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2	WINDTALKERS
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SMEs thrive well outside Metro Manila

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

(Second of two parts)

THE THREE outstanding medium-scale enterprises in the Philippines named by the Bureau of Small and Medium Enterprise Development and the Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council have proven that economic opportunities are not the monopoly of Metro Manila and provinces near the metropolis.

Agro Food Processing and Development Corp. from Bulacan, Bicol Hair Export Corp. of Legazpi City and General Santos City's A & J Seafoods and Marine Products showed that through marketing savvy, strong leadership and hard work, companies from the provinces can conquer the world.

Agro Food in Bulacan

Six cooperatives based in Balagtas, Bulacan, had the most noble of intentions when they combined resources to put up Agro Food Processing and Development Corp. in 1990. They wanted to become a major producer of quality and hygienically processed dressed chicken.

Having good intentions, however, did not guarantee a successful business venture. A glut in the chicken industry, rising production costs and the inability to compete with other big chicken integrators, however, forced the company to suspend operations in 1995.

Agro general manager Al B. Gonzales says in an interview that the cooperatives even entertained thoughts of closing down the company and its state-of-the art facilities for good.

But its luck finally turned after the group made the decision to offer its facilities to its competitors for toll dressing. The competition liked the idea as it helped them cut their operations and Agro wanted the business to keep its expensive machinery in operation, thus, keeping its operations viable.

It was a win-win solution that made Agro Foods the country's top meet processor and chicken dresser. It accepts toll processing, both in basic dressing and value-added products aimed at local and foreign markets.

Its clients include San Miguel Corp., RFM and other large integrators that used to be competitors but are now a source of steady business. It also provides the requirements of fast-food firms such as Jollibee Corp., McDonalds and Kenny Rogers.

Aside from the modern facilities that could process 3,200 chickens an hour, Gonzales says Agro Food's success could also be attributed to its service to customers. He stresses that Agro would not have been able to service its discriminating clients, if their service does not conform to their standards.

He adds that the company was also a tribute to the cooperation of the six original Bulacan-based cooperatives that managed to work well together for the greater good. These are: Agro Filipino Inc., Bulacan Growers Cooperative, Bulacan Livestock and Poultry Raisers Association, Katipunang Yaman ng mga Kapisanang Tangkilikan ng Bulakan Inc., Pandi Livestock and Poultry Marketing Coop and its affiliate, Pandi Poultry Breeding Farm Inc.

Bicol Hair Export Corp.

If you watched the latest concerts of American singer Tina Turner, then you also saw one of the creations of Legazpi, Albay-based Bicol Hair Export Corp., the country's biggest manufacturer of hand-made wigs and toupees.

Richard Huenefeld started the business in 1989 with 25 workers and an initial capital of P1 million. He says he first got into the business as a subcontractor for a German wig company. When it closed down, Huenefeld continued the business, got the best clients and Bicol Hair was born.

From just 25 workers who were all based in Bicol, the company now has 400 direct workers and another 350 in its extension offices, all of them doing the wigs for 15 foreign buyers by hand.

One of its biggest customers is Art Nature of Japan which gets all of its supply from Bicol Hair, thus, the company had to put up another floor on its existing factory building in Legazpi to accommodate the additional demand.

Huenefeld says Filipinos were suited for the job because of the painstaking attention to detail, and the facility for weaving. He says the knots used to make the wig are so fine that it is almost impossible to tell the wig from the real thing.

"I have always said that we have unlimited workers in Bicol because most everybody can do it unlike those in other countries. This is why we have become successful," Huenefeld says in an interview.

Bicol Hair keeps its competitive edge by regularly sending its people abroad for training. Supervisors regularly travel to observe and study different markets as part of its product research and development program.

International hair experts are also brought in to conduct training and update workers on new hair technologies.

Huenefeld says Bicol Hair's biggest asset is its highly skilled people, thus, he makes it a point to look after their welfare. Aside from providing amenities in the workplace, regular salary reviews, bonuses and bus services, Huenefeld recently bought a beach resort called Jungle Beach for the exclusive use of the workers and their families.

A & J Seafoods in Gensan

Entreppreneurship has put food on the table for Aurora Capitulo Amagan since she became a widow at 21 years old. She capitalized on every business opportunity that came her way, from selling PX goods to barter trade.

Her business adventures led this Pampanga native to General Santos in 1981 and there she saw the potential for selling fresh seafood that were abundant in the area. She bought fresh sea cucumbers and sharkfin for processing into ready-to-cook ingredients that she promoted to exotic Chinese restaurants in Manila.

At the same time, Amagan bought the excess non-export grade quantities of Cavendish bananas from General Santos and traded them in Manila, eventually expanding the business to include solo papaya, saba, apple guava and asparagus.

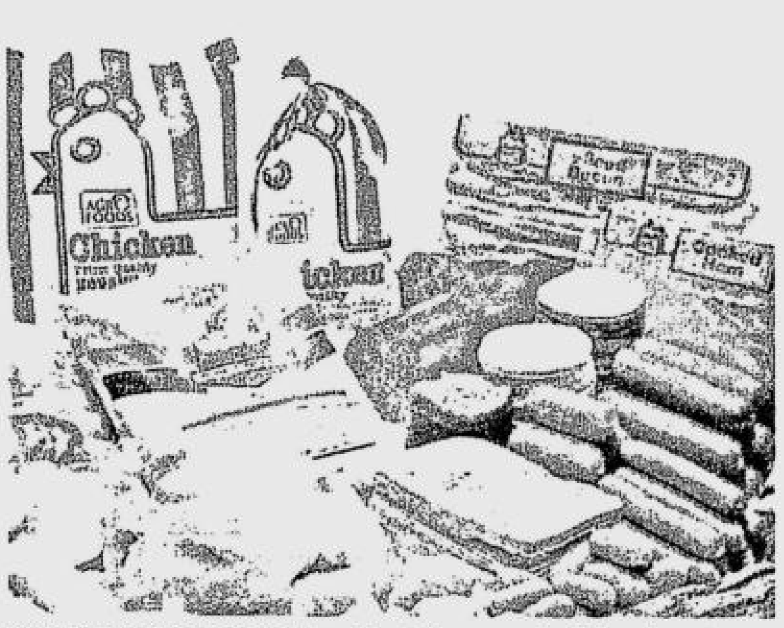
The business brought in handsome profits for a while, but shipping delays due to frequent typhoons, competition from too many players and rising costs squeezed profits. Amagan felt it was time again to shift gears, and she landed in seafood once more.

In 1996, she joined her new husband's fishing business and contracted to buy excess non-export grade stocks of large fishing firms and distributed these to Metro Manila markets. Since only 30 percent of tuna can be sold as sashimi export grade, she converted the excess meat into tuna sausage, longganisa, tocino and other fish-based products with vegetables as the only extenders.

Other industry players, however, encouraged Amagan to tap the export market, and A & J Seafoods has now become a major exporter of seafoods. As much as 80 percent of its production is exported. Aside from tuna sashimi, it has a diversified line of frozen seafood and value-added fish-based products, both for the export and local markets.

Amagan says she was able to maintain her buyers for the past years because she sticks to one set of high standards.

"If you are able to consistently meet their requirements, they would be sure to always get their products from you," Amagan says.



THE BULACAN-BASED Agro Food "corporative" has become the country's biggest toll chicken processor.

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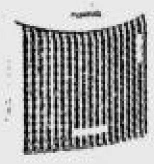

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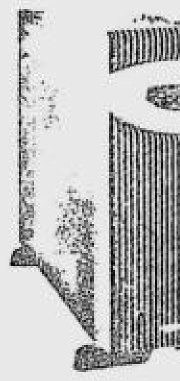

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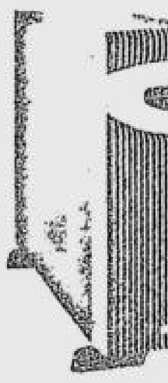

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Filipino brand names up for grabs

CHIT Juan and Butz Bartolome

By Meluchi A. Rivera
Contributor

WANT to put up a business but don't know where to begin? Then getting a franchise may be the best option.

In the world of franchising, one can instantly gain access to an established name and tested business system, all for an up-front fee. Simply put, franchising allows one to buy into the success of a known brand.

The biggest chains—global brands as McDonald's, Pizza Hut, Dunkin Donuts, Kentucky Fried Chicken and local giants such as Jollibee, Max's, Tropical Hut, Goldilock's, Aristocrat—all grew via this route.

Granted, a franchise of these top names means an investment in the steep, seven-digit category. But the good news is that the neophyte businessman, who is usually more guts than budget, can wade into franchising waters for as little as P50,000.

The key is to look at a growing number of seasoned, Pinoy-run businesses that are becoming available for franchising.

The First Filipino Franchise Show held recently at the SM Megamall's Mega Trade Hall showcased myriad local names that are literally up for grabs. There were food firms like Balay Bacolod, Binalot, Brothers Burger, Cabalen, Figaro Coffee Co., Family Fried Chicken, Goto King, Hap Tian, Potato Corner and Tacomio.

There were also service and retail companies such as ACT Electronic Center, Freeway, Foto-Me, Metropole Laundry & Dry Cleaners, Net Surfers Club, Pharmashoppe, Reyes Haircutters, Spoofs Ltd., Tips n' Toes and World Link Couriers.

The exhibition was organized by the Association of Filipino Franchisers Inc. (AFFI). Of the roughly 60 participants, 25 are AFFI members.

Pacita Juan, President of AFFI and CEO of Figaro Coffee Co., explains that the fair was envisioned "to give small- and medium-scale players a venue to showcase their offerings, and to encourage retailers to see franchising as a way of expanding."

AFFI is open to firms which are wholly Filipino-owned, are capitalized at below P50 million and have operated successfully for an at least six months.

"We are the only group to pool together small- and mid-sized local companies into a franchise show. There are other fairs which include the big names, the international names, but we wanted something in its purest form," Juan explains.

Affordable

AFFI's members are encouraged to keep their franchise fees affordable, and a quick survey of its members show this to average at roughly P150,000.

As AFFI's flyer points out, franchising is usually a win-win situation. The franchiser is able to expand by letting other committed entrepreneurs use his trademark and put up the capital for a new branch.

The franchisee, meanwhile, is ensured a higher success rate given a known brand and tested business system.

There are added bonuses in the package if the franchiser is a mid-sized, homegrown operation. Since the franchiser is not huge, "Both sides relate to each other as co-entrepreneurs," Juan notes.

And often, the relationship turns personal as franchisers are on call 24 hours a day.

"We get calls in the middle of the night if a problem crops up for the franchisee," she recounts, smiling. "Usually what happens is the franchisee gets to know us; they meet our families, our spouses; they know where we live . . . "

While the setup allows franchisees to shortcut the learning curve, there is still a lot of grunt-work required. As in any venture, success is not guaranteed.

She also cautioned investors on fly-by-night operators. As she says, when it's too good to be true, chances are it is.

"The P10,000 franchise is a myth," Juan says.

Apparently, AFFI has received reports of some unscrupulous quarters that offer business franchises for as low P10,000. As it turns out, these payments are mere "reservation fees" and some investors end up being fleeced of P100,000 or more, with still no franchise in sight.

AFFI's smaller members charge as low as P50,000, and Juan notes that it is nearly impossible to bring it down lower than that. Given the hard work that goes into systematizing operations and brand-building, it would be ludicrous to expect a businessman to sell his expertise for a paltry amount.

Safeguards

Armando Bartolome, president of GMB Franchise Developers and an AFFI stalwart, reveals these so-called "franchise operators" usually avoid introducing the investor to the owner of the business, parody the name of a known brand to ride on its success, and even refuse to issue receipts.

Bartolome stresses the need to police and safeguard the local franchising industry. "That's one of the main, and most important, roles of AFFI," he says. The organization is careful to screen its membership and has established ethical standards among its ranks. This is among the reasons that the group has been accredited with the Small Business Guarantee and Finance Corp. under the Department of Trade and Industry.

"Eventually, our vision is to establish AFFI as the seal of good housekeeping, a stamp that shows that this company is in compliance with good business practices," Juan says.

Juan also tells investors to "go into a business that you like—you should use, buy or eat the products yourself. Don't get a Figaro franchise if you don't drink coffee!" she illustrates.

This way, the franchisee gains a more enjoyable, if still unpredictable, business experience.

To help guide new franchisees and yes, franchise owners, AFFI has come up with the Franchise Times.

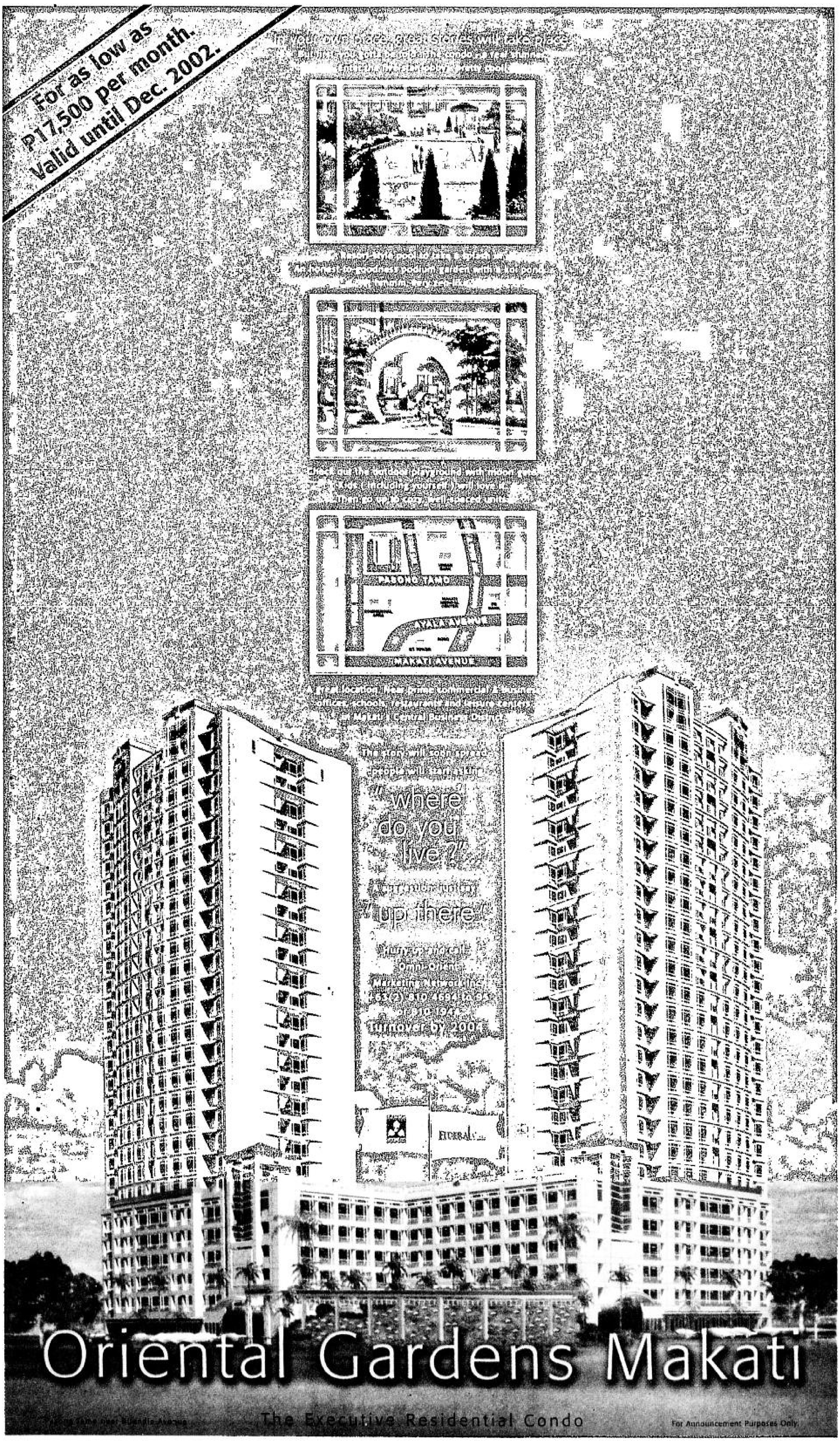
Says Juan; "All the books are from the US or Britain. We saw the need for a publication with local color." Each monthly issue will feature encapsulated "Franchising 101" articles.

If the crowd in the franchise fair was any indication, there appears to be a growing interest in local franchises. Juan cites the slowing economy and rock bottom interest rates as the main impetus for this trend, as Filipinos look for investment—and employment—alternatives.

"You have people exiting companies on early retirement packages, and that money will only make 2 to 3 percent. At least if you put it in a business you have a chance of making a higher return."

And then there is also the dignity of ownership. Whether one has been recently laid off or is merely looking for an alternative to corporate life, Juan notes that "It just feels good when you can say, 'I have my own business.'"

(AFFI can be reached at tel. no. 8135836 or via their website, www.filfranchisers.com.)



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From 'Bad Boy' to Boss

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Mike Alquinto

ACTOR Robin Padilla is a changed man inside out. After spending time in jail, the former "Bad Boy" of Philippine movies began crafting a new, squeaky-clean image—from his choice of roles down to his choice of clothes. And fans, especially the women, can't seem to have enough of him.

Robin is quick to point out that the transformation has been far from overnight. Nor is he ready to turn his back completely on action films. One thing is certain, he says. Whatever he does on screen today won't be a mirror of his troubled past.

Clad from head to toe in several sets of formal wear provided by Hugo Boss, Robin looks great and feels at peace with himself and the world.

Instead of the faded denim jacket he used to wear like a uniform, he slips this time into a deep-blue denim suit. Gone too are the trademark reversed cap and pair of high-cut rubber shoes. In their place is a clean-cut Robin shod in fine leather shoes also by Hugo Boss.

"Despite its price, Hugo Boss is worth it," says Robin before striking a pose in a black three-button suit with sky blue pinstripes. "The fit is perfect." If anything, the man, who claims to loathe preening in front of the cameras before, now seems to enjoy every minute of it.

"I underwent a sort of identity crisis after my stint in jail," he says. "I wasn't sure if I still had a place in the industry."

That was in 1998, three years after doing time for illegal possession of firearms. Robin made up for lost time by starring in a string of action films. They made money, all right, but they were not as huge a hit as his pre-Muntinlupa starrers were. A reinvention was definitely in order.

"Producers were no longer getting the desired grosses," he says, "and unlike before, I was in no position to make demands."

Limitations

Baring his skin was out of the question. Since his "rebirth" to Islam, which happened in jail, Robin has set certain limitations on himself. The comeback star, for instance, was initially cool to kissing scenes until his producers prevailed upon him to romance the ladies if only on the big screen.

Islam forbids drinking alcohol, but Robin is left with no choice these days but to endorse a beer brand. The contract, says his manager, dates back before he did time in 1995. He still spews out a barrage of cuss words if the role so requires.

"My job as an actor is to breathe life into a character," he says. "Still, I'm only human not to be affected by those intimate scenes."

Thanks to Regine Velasquez and film director Joyce Bernal, it didn't take long for Robin to explore uncharted territory. For his next film assignment, "Kailangan Ko'y Ikaw," the two women convinced him to comb his hair and wear makeup for a change.

"I never wore makeup before," says Robin. "All of a sudden they were asking me to project a matinee idol image. Of course, I had misgivings at first, but they prevailed in the end."

And Robin was glad they did. The movie became a monster hit marking the debut of a softer Robin with hardly a strand of misplaced hair. "Praise God," he says. "The public still likes me, but they want to see me doing something else."

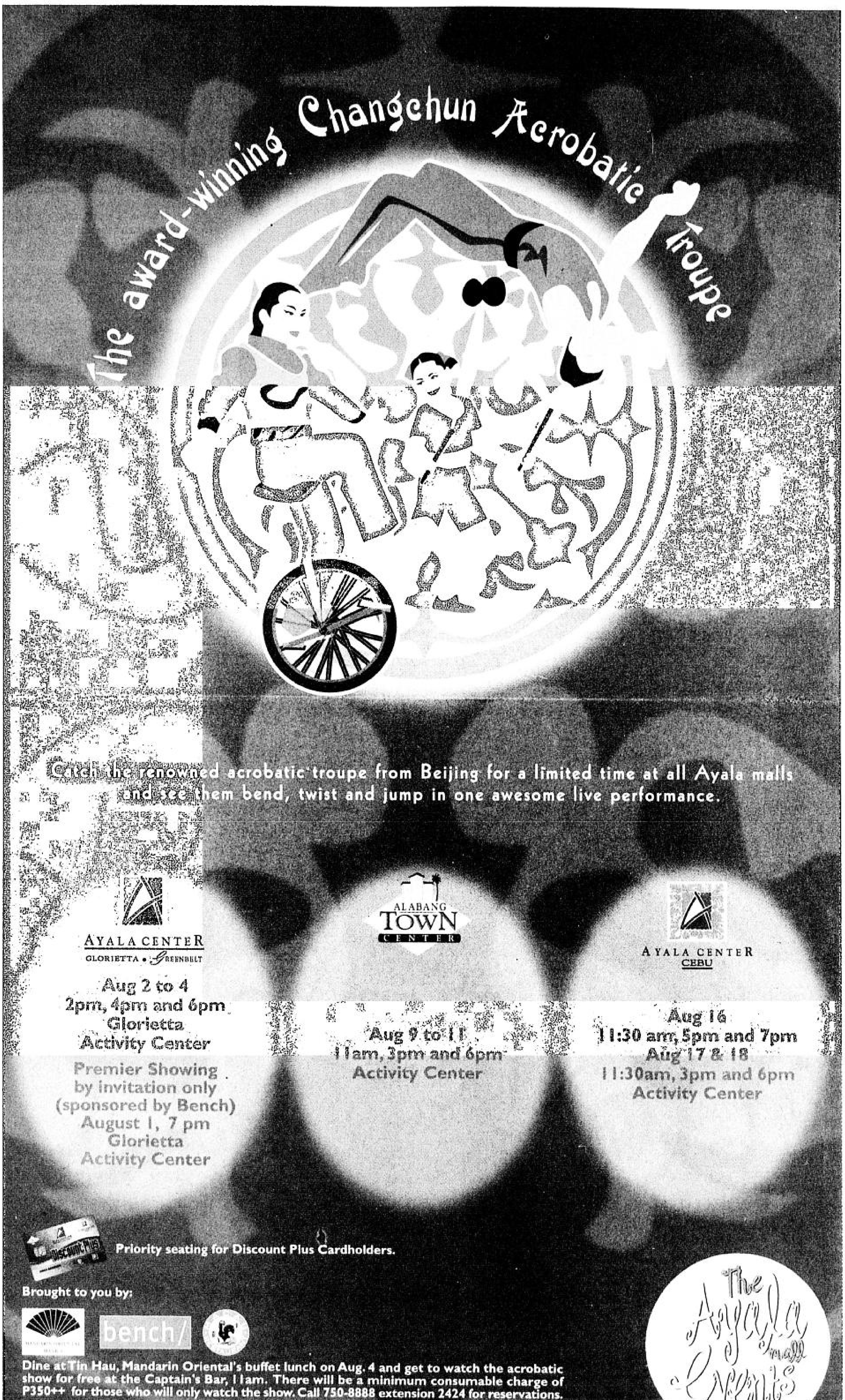
But old habits die hard. Before the year was over, Robin did two more action flicks. One of them paired him with Claudine Barretto and the other required him to play a struggling boxer à la Rocky. They were at best mild hits.

Not even megastar Sharon Cuneta could put the old luster back in Robin's career. They once starred in "Maging Sino Ka Man," a certified blockbuster in the early '90s. But their tandem's magic seemed to have faded in last year's "Pagdating ng Panahon."

Despite its hit theme song and Robin's boy-next-door image on posters, the movie failed to meet expectations. Like a real gentleman, Robin spared Sharon and instead put the blame on himself. His role as a handsome, albeit deglamorized, farmer probably turned off movie fans.

Then Star Cinema came up with "Videoke King," a movie that required Robin to sing, dance and look handsome. Yes, it was another

FROM/ p.C6



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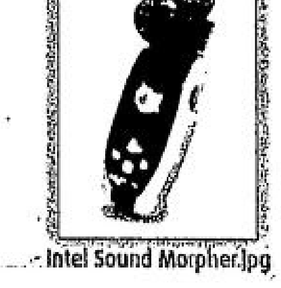

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Fix Bench Salon opened its first franchise in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija (044-4641628) on June 29, with Mayor Julius Cesar Vergara cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Branches of Fix Bench Salon will be opening soon at Jaka Plaza in Parañaque City, Center Mall in Ortigas and Robinsons Metro East.

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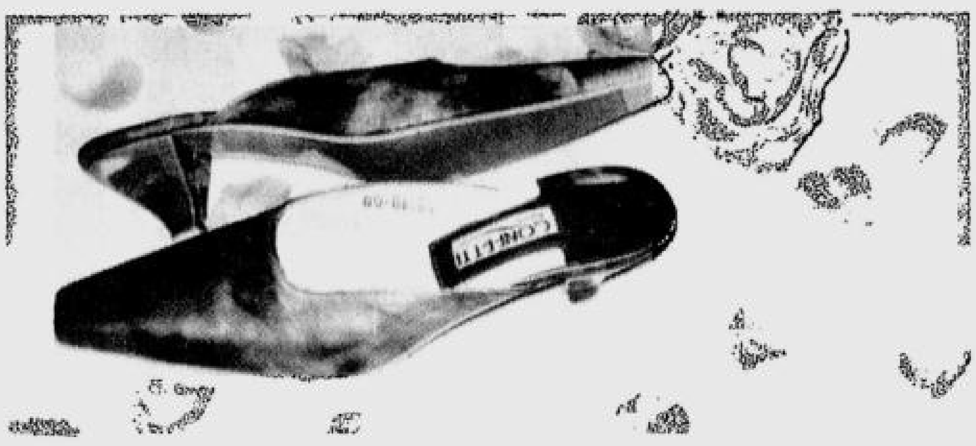
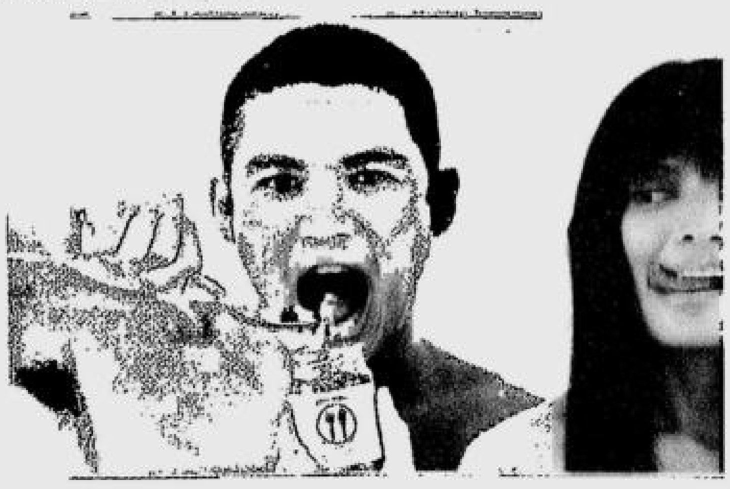


CONFETTI, the ladies' shoe store chain, is holding its annual clearance sale until Aug. 21. On sale are shoes and bags at up to 80-percent discount. Also on sale are the season's must-haves—classic styles in new textures, floral and graphic prints and colors. Sexy mules, slides and casuals in romantic earth, floral and other nature-toned materials in high-tech laminated textures are also available at discounted prices. Confetti outlets are located at Glorietta, SM City North Edsa, SM Megamall, SM Southmall, SM City Bacoor; Robinsons Department Stores in Galleria, Bacolod, Iloilo, Imus, Novaliches, General Trias, Metro East and Ermita; Ali Mall, Sta. Lucia East Department Store and Alabang Town Center.



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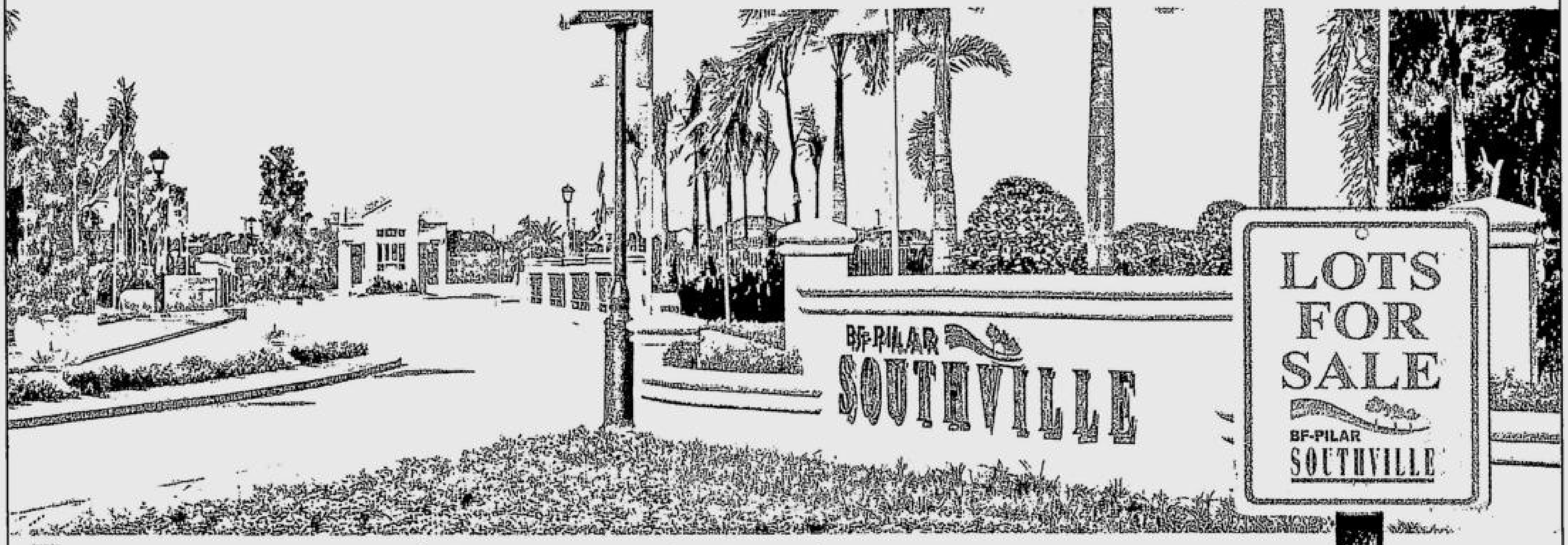
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BRIGHT YOUNG THINGS. Anna Palabyab and Nicole Schulze accentuate it with turquoise.

BLACK WISE. Donnie and Crickette Tantoco at the Polo Club cocktails

SISTERS IN BLACK. A happily married Angela Arroyo with stylish sib Rose Montenegro

SHEER FEMININITY. Jewelmer's Carmina Sanchez and Ingrid Go

KNIT KNACKS. Anna Shier in a Wink poncho, Bianca Valerio in a Lulu Tan-Gan

SAVVY SPECIALISTS. Anton and Nina Huang exude élan.

Black is back!

The dark secret is out! Black rules

Text and photos by Tim Yap

BLACK 2 BLACK. Candy Reyes and Yael Buencamino pair black with bags and accessories.

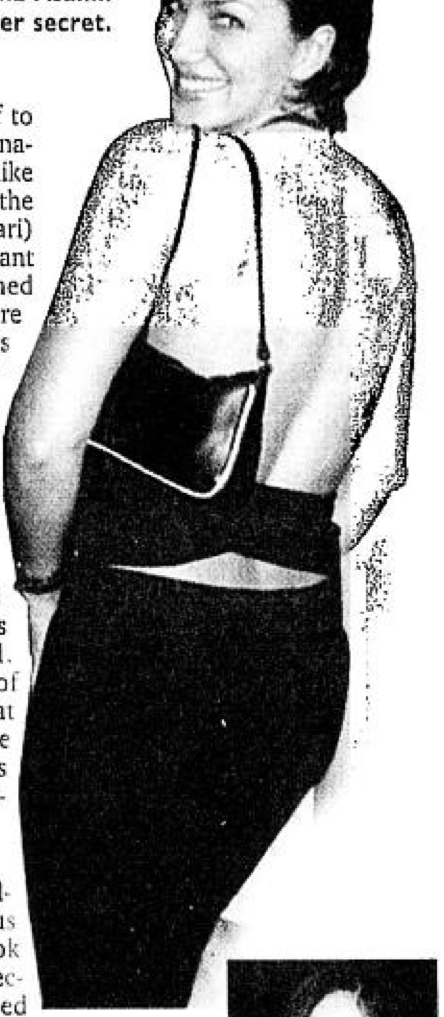
FRILLS AND FUN. Tessa Prieto-Valdes and Leah Puyat

LIKE a thief in the night, black has taken back the fashion crown right when white isn't looking. Of course, in this fickle world of fashion frivolity where the hot color changes faster than you can say Comme des Garcons, you can never tell. Lesson: never throw your clothes—you just don't know when they'll be back in vogue. And if you keep them long enough, they may yet be considered vintage.

Take the case of the classic black dress. It's immortal, to say the least. Spruce it up with ruffles and you can samba your way from day to night. Add a fringed shawl and go straight to the corporate cocktails at the Shang. Put some funky jewelry (preferably your mom's or your grandma's) and you are off to party at Shiraz. Pick a spot; your choices are limitless with the "infinite dress."

For the "unveiling of a dark secret" at the Polo Club a week ago, Manila's A-listers went the black route to comply with the dress code. I searched from closets of years past for black stuff—from cotton shirts to nylon jackets and velvet suits—my closet was full of it. Come to think of it, black was everybody's uniform a decade ago. I chose this classic black utilitarian shirt which I bought from Reno in Cinderella some eons back.

It had epaulettes and was made of stretch material. Voila! Off to Rhett Eala it went for a reincarnation. Rhett put on petals (yes, like the one Gretchen wore when the whole world noticed her Bvlgari) and more petals, plus some giant buttons. On my own, I attached ruffles on my shoulders and wore a fedora hat. That night, I was feeling sick (as was everyone who was wheeling with the weather), but since I was wearing black, it was okay to look pale—like a modern goth.



BACK IS BLACK. Lana Asanin unveils her secret.

You see, black works both ways. It either masks you (and your flabs) or reveals you; it highlights the things you want to be highlighted. Not to mention the sense of mystery it exudes. I guess that is why black is the color of the night. For how can the stars shine if not for the vast blackness of the sky?

Black fashion parade

Okay, enough of existentialism (or astronomy), let's focus on vanity. It makes you look good, period. That night, director Jackie Aquino transformed the Polo Club into a shining ebony arena, where a ramp served as a centerpiece framed by black bleachers and the black-clad guests. Later, a black show featuring the country's top designers ensued.

Randy Ortiz exuded flirtatious fun in his collection that had a lot of fabulous details—Swarovski beading here, some pleats there, and an interplay of fabrics that all spelled fun, fun, fun. Randy utilized a lot of sheer materials and draping. Outstanding were his halter wraps that draped around the female form paired with asymmetrical skirts and leggings. Some friends of mine loved his collection so much that they stalked Randy right after the show to reserve several pieces.

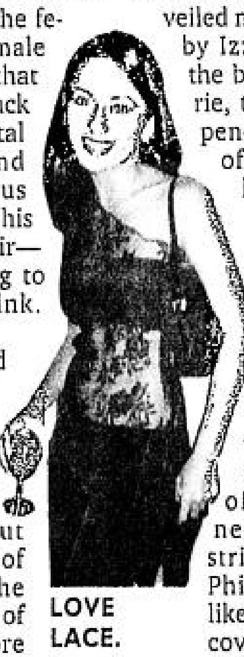
Next, Rhett Eala showed classic pieces that hugged the female form. And the female form seemed to love it that it hugged his clothes back harmoniously. From petal embellishments and ruffles to his ubiquitous ponchos, Rhett stuck to his formula of feminine flair—soft, yet very flattering to the female figure. Wink. wink.

Vic Barba presented black in a hip and sexy way, with accessories like berets and boots. He paired them with dresses in rich lace and funky denim and put fringed details. A mix of feminine and gothic, he played with the theme of dominatrix. Even before the show, the models had reserved Vic's clothes; they wore them straight to the after-funeral party (to borrow from Derek Zoolander).

HERBENCH IN BLACK. Lucy Gomez exudes elegance no matter what she wears.

And then the models came out in Josie Natori lingerie, with veiled masks, tulle skirts styled by Izza Gonzales. After all the black clothes and lingerie, the real unveiling happened—it was the launch of Carefree Black panty liners, Johnson and Johnson's latest innovation! Not that I know anything about that, but my girl friend Tina Sabarre tells me that they do want it in black, just to match their underwear. (If that's the reason, imagine the range of colors that will be next: fuchsia? Zebra stripes?) It's new in the Philippines, yes. But just like when the femmes discovered the thong underwear, they loved it, and for a lot of women, they stuck to it.

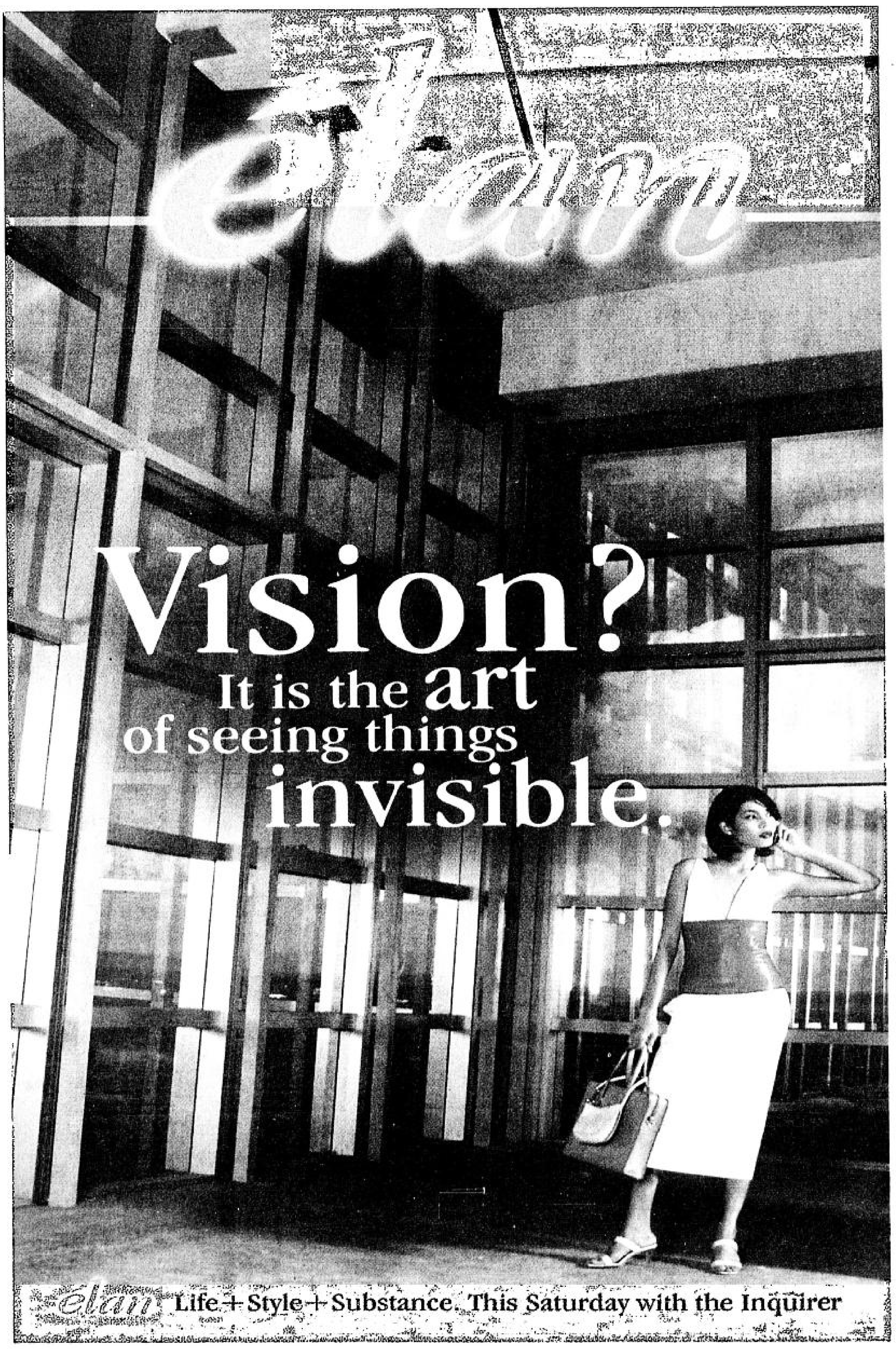
And now, you know what they say—"when you go black, you'll never go back." I rest my case.



LOVE LACE. Angela Velez's sexy seduction

BLACK MIX. Celine Lopez in Diesel with glam gal Leica Carpo

CAREFREE IN BLACK. Jackie Aquino, Marichelle Pio de Roda and Tina Sabarre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Unrequited love; crime-ridden streets

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have already graduated from college but I am still so in love with a guy from high school. I have nurtured this feeling for six years now even though I did not see him regularly for four years because we went to different colleges. We saw each other only once or twice a year in parties and get-togethers.

We were never "together" in high school and he has had numerous girlfriends since while I never had any boyfriend in college.

My problem is that I'm still so in love with this guy, but he doesn't even know how I feel. He treats me only as a friend. I just cannot forget him, even if I try to. What should I do?

FLEUR DELACOUR

Just face the music, *hija*. When a girl tries to attract the love of her life, he might be responsive at the start, but it will not last. A man has to win the love of his sweetheart, in order to treasure it.

You ask what you should do. To forget him, focus on your life now; think of your future and plan for it. You did not say if you have a job. Don't despair about finding a job. Many people are jobless. If you decide to go into business, just remember that the best thing to do is to "find a need, and fill it." If there's a school in your neighborhood, students might need packed lunches.

May I remind you of a saying: "Love in a man's heart is only a part; it is a woman's whole existence." However, don't let that muddle your life now. If you will keep thinking of this man who does not even think of you, you will just be wasting every day of your life. Do something good and worthwhile instead. Love yourself. Pray. More things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of.

Hopeless?

I HAVE always believed that the Philippines will make it despite Erap and the never-ending political, economic and management problems of the Gloria administration. But now I'm not that sure anymore.

Two of my sons were robbed this weekend. A few seconds after my 16-year-old got off a jeepney in Dasmariñas, Cavite, someone bumped into him. He found out later inside a grocery that his wallet was missing. My 20-year-old was eating at a restaurant in Baguio when a man put his hand over his shoulder (*inakbayan*) and poked him with a pointed instrument. In both cases, the wallet and all forms of identification, a whole week's allowance, bank cards, etc. were taken. Imagine how difficult it is to get new identification cards and open new bank accounts, especially if you are a non-working minor and student.

When I told my sister about it, she shared her own stories. Near the hospital where she works in Manila, a beauty parlor and a restaurant were robbed in broad daylight.

So, what's this country coming to? Why is robbery becoming common? Should we all just stay indoors and bite our nails? Is worrying the only option when our children walk out the front door? Praying is good, but here's hoping that a someone "big" takes note of this and does something about it.

SHEILA

Yes, prayer is still the best thing we can do nowadays, because everything works for the good of those who love the Lord. However, you are correct. Let's hope a "someone big" will do something about it.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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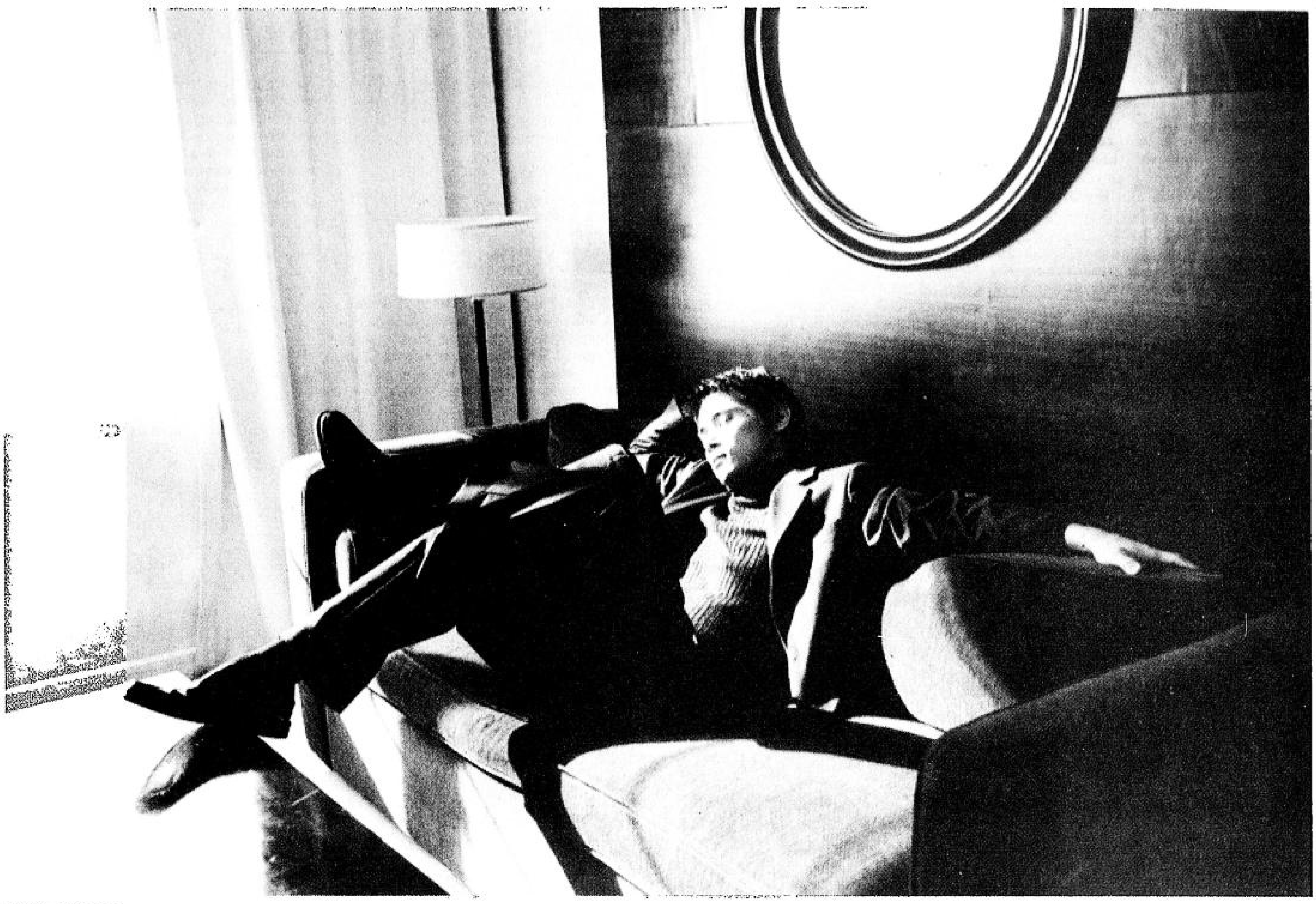

BOY TOY. Robin Padilla relaxes in Astoria's superbly appointed living room in a wine baby camel jacket, charcoal virgin wool turtleneck pullover and charcoal tropical-weight wool trousers with single pleats.

Robin Padilla leaves the rough-and-tumble world of the action movies to don Hugo Boss. Would you believe his dream role is something akin to the Richard Gere character in 'American Gigolo'?

From 'Bad Boy' to Boss

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STYLING: J CU-UNJIENG
LOCATION: ASTORIA PLAZA, PASIG
SPECIAL THANKS TO MARY ANN REYES AND VIVIAN NG

From page C1

matinee-idol role, this time opposite concert queen Pops Fernandez.

"They showed me the script and it was against everything I stood for," he says. "I had no choice." Robin did the musical before doing "Hari ng Selda," another slam-bang action flick set in jail.

Different story

"Hari," which was shown earlier, was another mild hit. When "Videoke" hit theaters, however, it was a different story. Not only did it earn tons of money, it was able to compete head-on with Hollywood blockbuster "Spider-man."

"Now every role that comes my way requires me to look good and court the ladies," he says with a chuckle.

These days, Robin is busy wrapping up an untitled love story opposite Judy Ann Santos. On top of his TV guestings, he recently finished taping 13 episodes of "Satsu," a mini-series on Channel 13.

The change, which began behind bars, also extends to his private life. With plenty of time in his hands, Robin immersed himself in reading on various religions. The tenets of Islam soon caught him.

"All religions are good," says Robin, a former member of the Jehovah's Witnesses. "I was initially sentenced to nine years. If I were to survive through my ordeal, I needed a miracle. I found the answers in Islam."

Robin has since stayed away from alcohol, cigarettes and drugs. Since he is out on parole, he has had his share of nasty people out to break his resolve. For some reason, they still see him as the bad boy always spoiling for a fight.

"I've learned to keep to myself instead of yielding to their taunts," he says. "I'm trying my best, but I'm still prone to certain weaknesses."

His efforts to stay away from trouble were severely tested in a number of occasions. When a stuntman once sneaked in drugs on the set, the actor got so angry he had to contain himself from beating the guy to a pulp. For no apparent

FROM/ p.C6

IDOL! Robin Padilla goes corporate in a three-button suit in black with sky blue pinstripes. A pale jade tie with dark blue and silver stripes accents the blue shirt with jade stripes.

PINOY GIGOLO. Robin Padilla looks cool in a tan tropical-weight three-button wool suit and long-sleeve dress shirt in pink with red stripes. This time he wears a brown kid leather belt and a pair of brown calf leather shoes.

DREAM BOAT. Robin Padilla wears a blue denim suit paired with indigo cotton blend V-neck pullover, black calf leather belt and a pair of black leather shoes.

From 'Bad Boy' to Boss

From page C6

reason, a fellow motorist once cut him on the road. Robin kept his cool through it all.

"If that had happened before," he says, "chances are we would have come to blows."

Toll

The life of an ex-con has taken its toll on Robin's family. Rather than subject his loved ones to additional pressure, he and his wife Liezl have decided that the children immigrate with her to Australia. Their union has produced Quennie, Kylie, Chen-chen and only boy Ali.

Thus, Robin now finds himself flying between the Philippines and Australia in between showbiz engagements. "It's unfair to my family," he says. "I don't want the kids to live under a stigma because their father was an ex-con. In Australia, they have the freedom to be themselves."

Robin debunks nasty talk that his real purpose in converting to Islam was to marry more than one wife. He admits, however, that he married two other women, but had to divorce them later. The added load became too much for him to bear.

"Actually, we're at a disadvantage," he counters. "We don't have one-night stands. We Muslims must marry the woman and that's a big responsibility. They have to be treated equally, and you can marry only up to four."

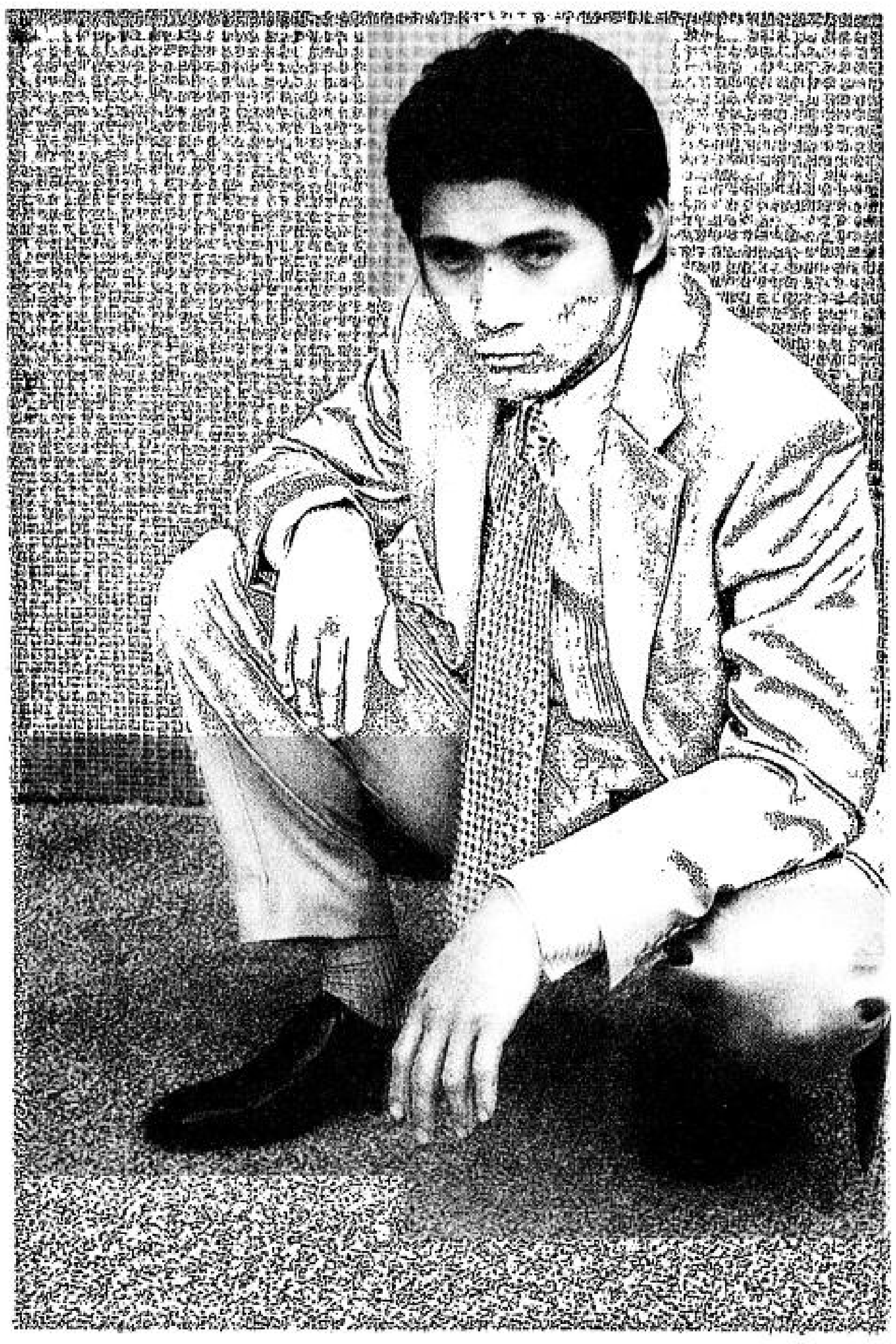
These days Robin is up to his neck preparing for his next role in Chito Roño's version of the Balangiga massacre. He again goes into action mode as a leader of the revolt. To stay in shape, he exercises at least five hours each day, swimming, jogging and doing muaythai, the Thai form of martial arts, at the Ultra.

For this purpose, the Astoria Plaza in Pasig recently hosted Robin and his sparring partners. The posh hotel cum residential condominium has been his home for a month. He still lives with mom Eva in their old house in Fairview.

So, is Robin anywhere near his dream role? "I really want to star in a film wearing these clothes," he says of Hugo Boss. "It's one of my dreams to do a Richard Gere in the mold of 'American Gigolo.'"

To glamour boy Robin Padilla, playing such a worldly role on film has nothing to do with his faith. "It's just a form of art." Some things never change.

E-mail the author at avergara @inquirer.com.ph



ROBIN Padilla up close and personal

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In search for a pet, Lilo adopts what she thinks is a dog and names him Stitch to the horror of her sister Nani. Realizing that Lilo and Nani provide a perfect safety shield against alien bounty hunters, Stitch welcomes the adoption and "sticks like glue" to his new family.

Stitch, however, proceeds to behave badly and create chaos while proving to be perhaps the least affectionate pet on the planet. Still, Lilo takes him under her wing and encourages him to be a model citizen like her hero Elvis Presley.

In the end, Lilo's unwavering faith in "Ohan
the Hawaiian tradition of family, unlocks
heart and gives him the one thing
designed to have—the ability
else.

Disney's newest chara
of Chris Sanders, a mul
Disney Feature Anima
thinking about a Stitch
ago when he was ju
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monstrous-looki
over the years

It was
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encounter with Stitch on
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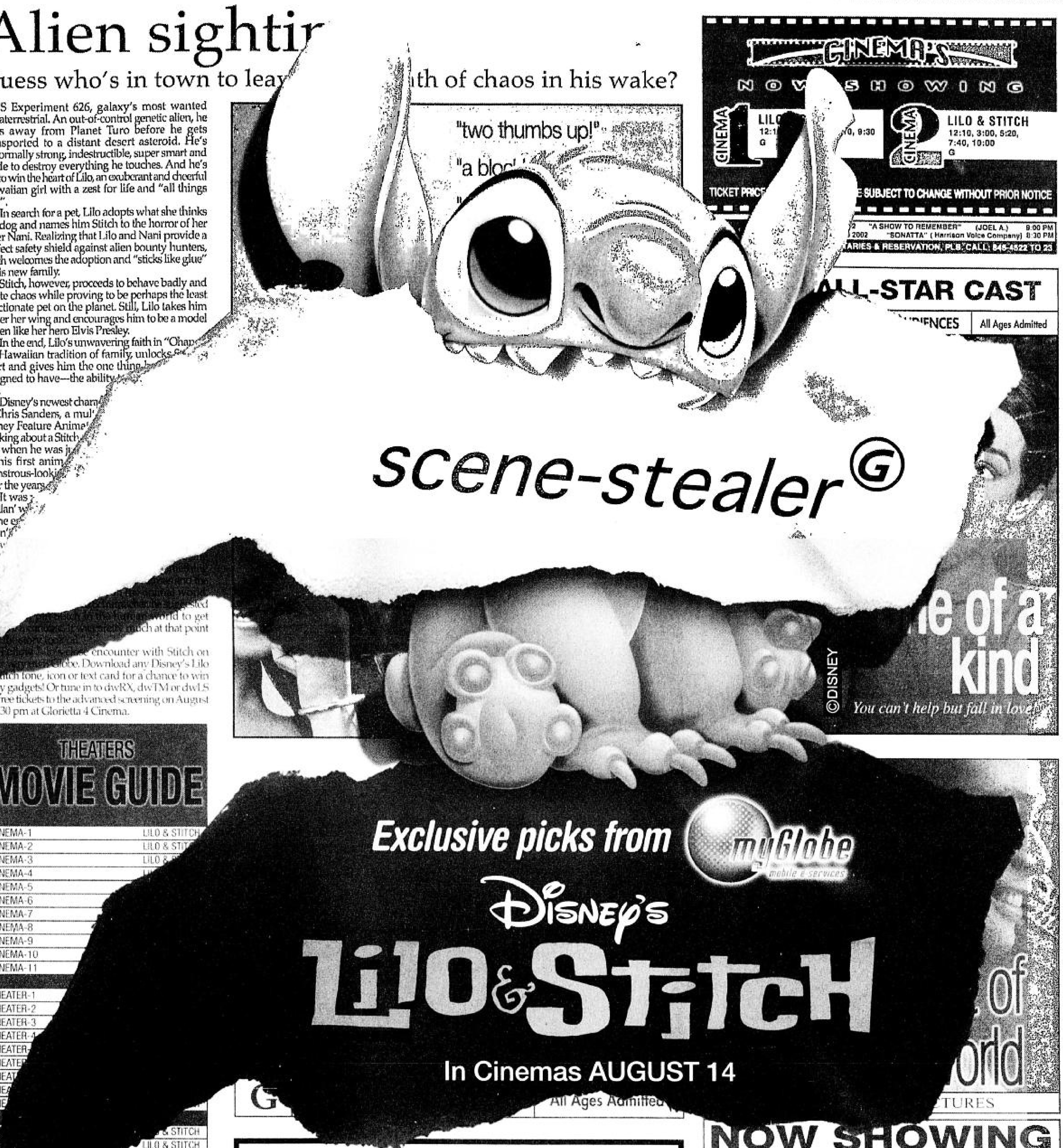

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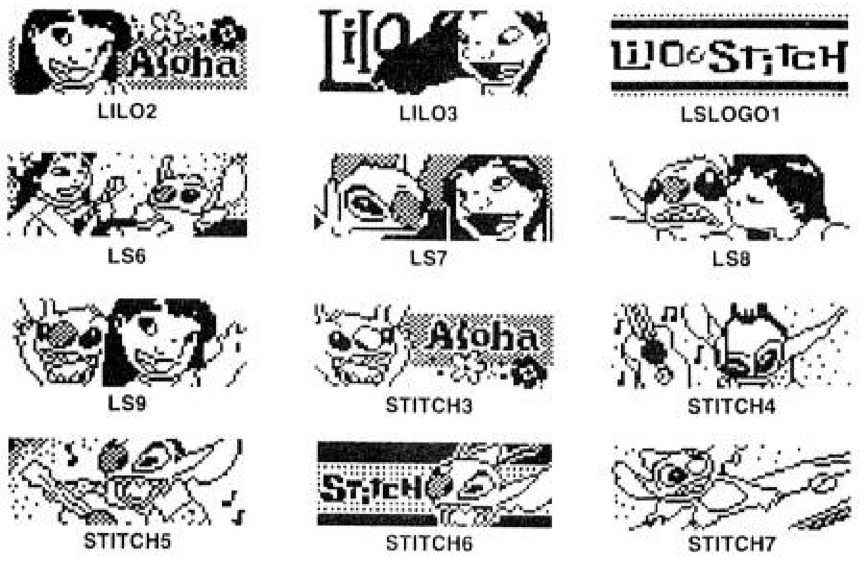

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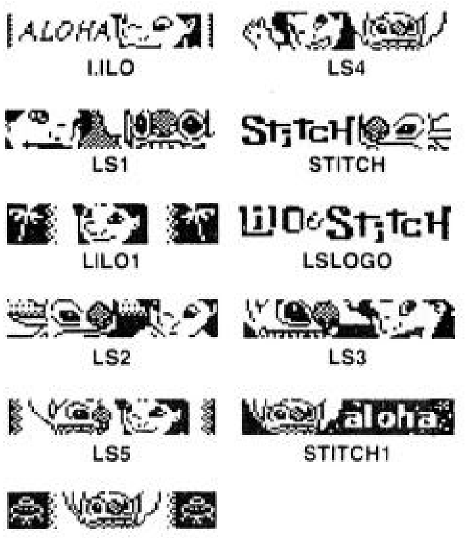

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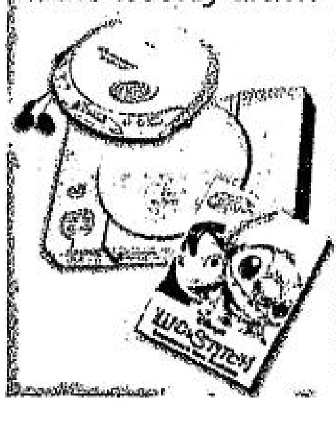

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LIFESTYLE

Should you make your man color his hair?

Highlighting and color are now a guy thing.
Men are treading the style path that used to be exclusive to women

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

IT WAS the height of summer. A couple in their 40s lounged by the pool; he was leafing through his gourmet magazines, she finishing Armistead Maupin's "More Tales of the City." Separate in their choice of literature, but one in their need to take a break.

He leaned closer to her, looked her in the eye, and whispered rather cozily,

"Can I ask you a personal question?"

She nodded, anticipating some sweet talk.

He said, "You think I should color my hair?"

Our lunch table cracked up as my girl friend recalled the above highlight from the summer just past. Her friend wanted to know if he should color his salt-and-pepper hair, or just leave it be.

Good question. Tricky dilemma. Hair color is now a guy thing, when it used to be a style territory exclusive to women. Or so it seemed.

Just last week, my teenage son nagged me to bring him to the salon to have his hair colored jet-black. Why, I asked, it's always seemed black to me.

Not when the harsh sunlight hits it, he said. It turns brownish and he doesn't want it to be lighter than black. No compromise on hues these days.

I wanted to say what's wrong with his natural color, but I knew better than to provoke a style argument. I'd rather reserve verbal powwows for the more crucial issues in life, like grades, which thankfully, have yet to happen this sem. Besides, being in the glossy magazine business, I hold myself greatly responsible for such vanity consciousness. We are, after all, purveyors of a mindset that hair color makes up a style statement, style yes, but a statement nonetheless. Mea culpa.

It's just that I'm beginning to observe that men—young and old—are asserting equal opportunity with women when it comes to hair style and now, color and highlights. Guys continue to migrate from barbershops to hair salons, in increasing no-turning-back flow.

Time was when older men either dyed their hair to hide the white, or not at all. Today, they've, uh, let their hair down and become more liberal and open to other possibilities. The choice is no longer black or white, no longer just surrendering to the onslaught of gray hair or dyeing it solid black. Men have suddenly discovered that there's a palette of hues in between—a style adventure women have enjoyed all this time.

I got the idea that more and more men past 40 are summoning the guts to toy with hair color some time ago when Jim Paredes asked me, on one of his visits to the office for photoshoot assignments, if it was about time he

SHOULD/ p.D2

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CLINICA MANILA, 2F Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
PATIENT FIRST MEDICAL CENTER, 3F Mercury Bldg. Glorietta, Mkt.
HEALTHWAY MEDICAL CLINIC, 2nd Flr. Festival Supermall (Pine Forest Entrance)
• 3rd Flr. The Plaza Bldg., Greenbelt Shopping Centre, Mkt.
CEBU HOLDINGS, Suite 505 Cebu Business Park, Ayala Center, Cebu City
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WEIGH LESS CAGAYAN, Don Apolinar Velez corner Cayetano Pacana St., Cagayan de Oro City
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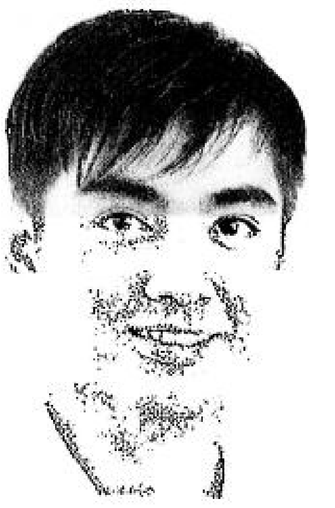
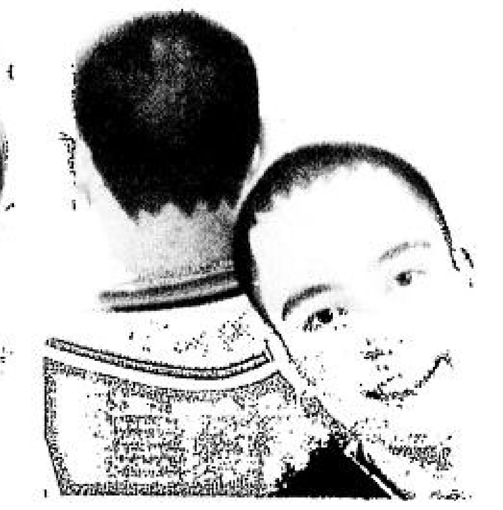
Should you make your man color his hair?

From page D1





dyed his hair for their concert. The girls and I thoroughly enjoyed discussing hair color and highlights with him—a topic quite alien to him—and suggested that he see a good hair colorist. There are many out there, I said, and I don't see why men should let hair-color technology pass them by. When I saw him recently I remarked that his hair shade—a touch of brown here and grey there—suited him perfectly. No reason to get stuck to total white or black, I said.

Jun de Leon, the photographer, is another not-so-young man who now has his hair color down pat—the perfect shade of brown to go with a blunt cut.

We have the '80s punks to thank for this. While the blues and oranges of that era are too daring to go mainstream, they opened up the market for hair color, and the hair care industry giants didn't let up on innovation and research, flooding the market with shelves after shelves of products, from volumizers, gels, relaxants, to do-it-yourself color shampoos.

These products, such as those of L'Oreal and Sebastian, land straight in hair salons where stylists show customers huge catalogues of colors, with enough hues to brown, black, or even burgundy to fill pages. Women can change color and highlights depending on their moods, with no fear of hair damage as hair care giants did away with strong chemicals and tapped the use of herbal, natural and organic bases. And if women are trying it, so can men.

A hair salon chain owner told me that he's no longer surprised that men make up a sizeable chunk of their business. "They're in fact more faithful than some women in maintaining their color, like you can be sure they'll visit your salon every two weeks," he said.

What guys out there should realize, if they don't already, is that they can maximize today's hair style/color technology. And if, like my friend, you women suddenly find yourselves in positions of authority over your men when it comes to hair color, rise to the occasion, and keep these tips in mind:

- To begin with, make sure he has enough hair. If not, hair extension (all right, wig) is not the only solution. Bald is not necessarily bad (okay, sometimes it is). A most stylish option today is a cropped 'do, closely shaved, certainly much better than having a mop or ill-shaped extension; you don't like your man's head to look like a soufflé with a 24-hour cover that keeps away the flies. Tonyboy Cojuangco's short-cropped 'do is the biggest stylish news to hit the business community. Guys his age can follow the trail he's blazed in style makeover (takeover, not yet).
- Jet black is out of the question, unless he's my son's age. It's no fun when the camera swoops down the august halls of the Senate or Congress and shows these bobs of solid black hair on men who don't only look old but are, in fact, old. Solid black hair on men past their prime is as artificial as boob extensions, and definitely less sexy.
- Give it the patina of age. This means the subtle shades of brown and gray, which a good hair colorist can blend.
- Salt-and-pepper looks good. (At least that's what many women think.) Attractive, in fact. So leave it alone. Work on the texture instead.
- If your man wants to leave his salt-and-pepper or gray hair alone, work on the shine and texture. So it doesn't look dull or dry, let him have the "cellophane" treatment. Hot oil isn't the only thing. There are now many kinds of treatment to relax the hair, give it shine and suppleness.
- Seek out the right hair colorist. Men don't have the patience for the search; women do, usually. A good hair colorist knows not only how to blend the shades, but also chooses the products with hair-friendly ingredients, not damaging chemicals. Not all like henna. The salons never run out of new products with more and more innovations.
- Choose the hairstylist and hair colorist you can handle and who'll listen to you. It's enough that you intimidate your man; don't let him get intimidated by your hair colorist. A man once complained to me about his hair cutter: "I want him to cut my hair short. He doesn't want to, he likes me to keep it long. I told him it's my hair, not his. He disagreed."

All of the above are my advice to women. Now to the men: Don't cross your woman, she can turn you over to the wrong hair colorist. That's not only power. That's sweet revenge.

Pitoy redux

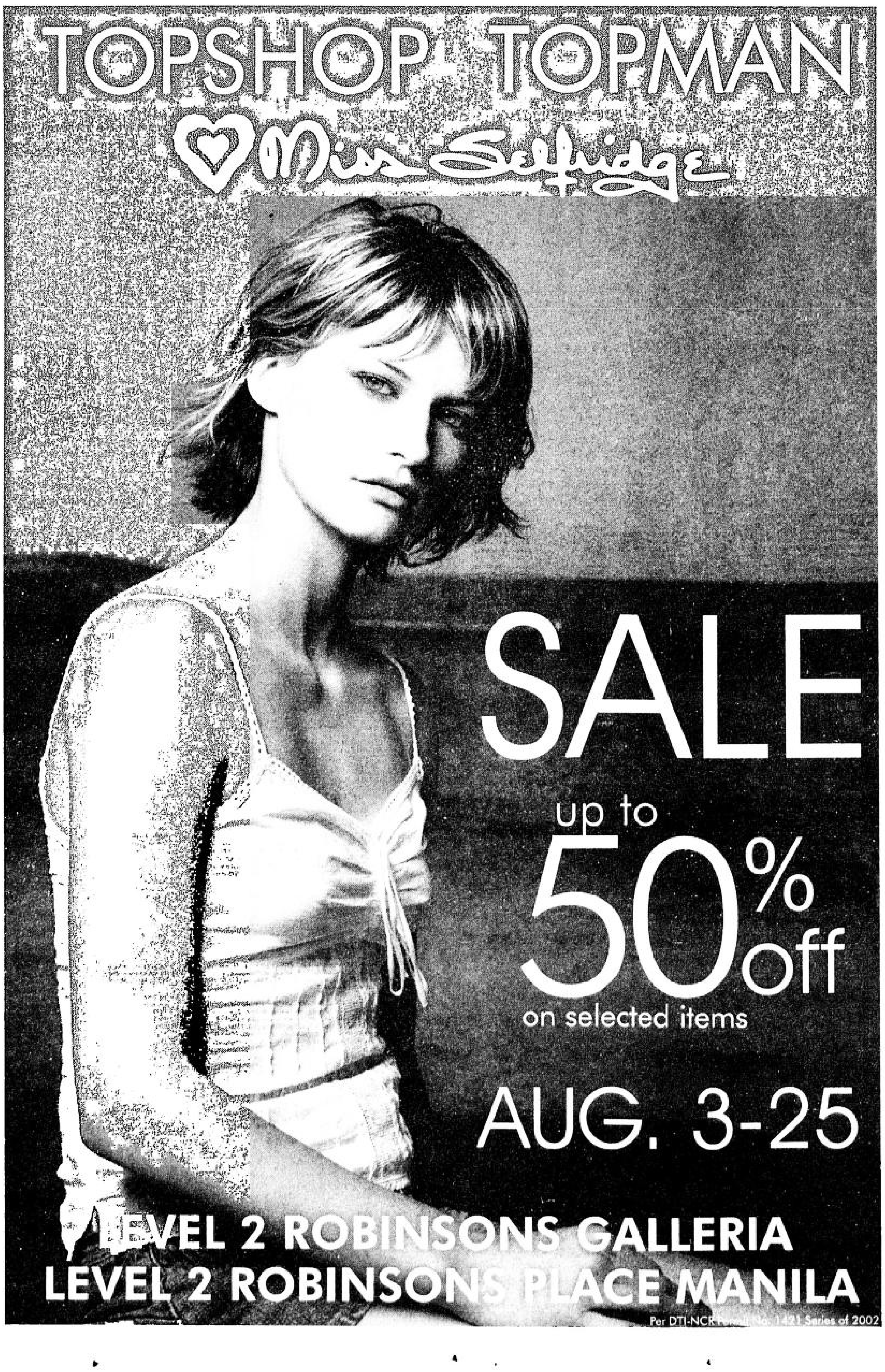
Pitoy Moreno, despite his fame and fortune, simply will not stop reinventing himself and chalking up achievements. He's just back from Osaka where he presented his wedding gowns during the Asian Bridal Summit at Royal Hotel. Interestingly in 1970, during the Osaka Fair '70, Moreno brought his show there with a power lineup of models: Imelda Marcos who wore her piña terno, first Miss Universe Armi Kuusela, Miss International Stella Marquez Araneta, Tingting Cojuangco, Conchitina Bernardo, Gloria Diaz, Aurora Pijuan, Celia and Susie Laurel, Cita Avecilla, and Monet de los Reyes. So you can say that Pitoy conquered Osaka twice.

On Aug. 8, President Macapagal-Arroyo will be guest of honor at the launch of "Palacio de Malacañang" at Malacañang. Expected to attend are former residents of the Palace: Nini Quezon Avanceña, Serge Osmeña, Rosie Osmeña Valencia, Ruby Roxas, Judy Roxas with Mar and Rina, Vicky Quirino Delgado, Mila Magsaysay, among others. It should be interesting to watch how the presidential children spanning generations will interact.

We got mail from Jay de Belen, whose group fields DIs in various clubs and events. Reacting to last week's column, Jay says he hopes that our reading—that the reign of the dance instructor is over—isn't accurate. His group, he said, trained victims of Mt. Pinatubo eruption, all 30 displaced workers from Clark, to be dance instructors. Now they number over 100 and are doing well as DIs at Westin Philippine Plaza's Siete Pecados, Monday to Thursday. So if you want to swing away and help these guys, check out the Westin. Jay has been providing jobs to these DIs since 1991, after Pinatubo, and recalls that at the height of ballroom dancing, "more than 100 guests, male and female, would line up, wait in their air-conditioned cars and would clap upon the arrival of the 30 original DIs."

People are checking out a new, interestingly designed bar in Malate—Acquario. Designed by Ed Calma and run by Chelo Zamora, it is, as its name suggests, inspired by the fluidity and clarity of water—its all-white interiors accented by ambiance lighting (lighting design is today's cutting-edge component of interiors) have curvy lines that suggest the organic and biomorphic. Ces Drilon loves the place. When we were there over the weekend with Ces, her husband Rock and Carlo Tadiar, Rock said that hanging out at Acquario felt like he was entering one of his paintings—it was that biomorphic. As you enter you see the light projected on the bar, creating a water-wave movement. In place of conventional wall hangings and other décor accents, Ed astutely uses lighting to define and accentuate space.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph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Cristina Hidalgo named UP Press director

NOTED writer and professor Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo was recently appointed director of the University of the Philippines Press, official publishing house for all constituent units of the UP System. Established in 1965, the UP Press publishes scholarly, creative and scientific works representing distinct contributions to knowledge in various academic disciplines.

GOINGS-ON

UNIVERSITY DAY. Baliuag University in Bulacan will celebrate Founder's and University Day on Aug. 9. It will also host the first Bulacan Book Fair Aug. 5-8 at the university gymnasium. The book fair is organized by the Association of Booksellers for the Academic and the Professions.

GYM LAUNCH. Lara de Ubago Sia is launching her self-defense and martial arts training gym on Aug. 17 at Clean Body Clean Mind Health and Fitness Center, located at 615 Boni Ave. corner Sikap St., Mandaluyong. Call 578-6986 or e-mail chcm@edsamail.com.ph

DISCOUNTS. Health and beauty products are available at big discounts at the Sta. Lucia East Department Store and SLE Essentials this month. Learn proper skin care and get free facials from ZA New York, Godiva and Skintel. Have a free makeover from Max Factor, Ever Bilena and Oseur. Hair experts from Swallow will give tips on hair care. Ralph Lauren introduces its new colorful floral scent—Ralph for Women. Visit its animation booth and get free Ralph butterfly vial. A product exhibit by Bench cologne and FA personal hygiene products also highlights the event. Both brands will give away free samplers to customers.

INDUCTION. The newly-elected officers of Hublag Jamindanga-non will be held on Aug. 18, 6 p.m., at Aberdeen Court Hotel, Quezon Avenue, QC. Mayor Winston Advincula will be the guest speaker and Rep. Fredenil Castro the inducting officer. Call 427-8497.

WORKSHOP. Nicanor Perlas, a world-renowned lecturer and writer and recipient of the UN Environment Program Global 500 Award for Sustainable Agriculture and The Outstanding Filipino (TOFIL) Award, is the resource person for the seminar-workshop on "Evolution of Human Consciousness," sponsored by the Anthroposophical Society in the Philippines. This will be held at Bahay Ugnayan, Good Shepherd Compound, 1043 Aurora Blvd., QC, tomorrow, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and Aug. 4. Call 362-1692, 412-0224, 373-4807 or (0917) 484-3495.

PHOTO CONTEST. All professional and amateur photographers are invited to join the Boracay Lifestyle Photo Contest until Aug. 30. Entries must be submitted to Fuentes Publicity Network Inc., Unit 6-D Cypress Gardens Condominium, 112 Herrera St., Legaspi Village, Makati City, on or before Aug. 30. Call Fuentes Publicity Network Inc. at 893-9355 or 816-3109.

FAIR. Edsa Shangri-La Manila holds "Corporate Events Fair" on Aug. 13 at the Tower Wing Lower Lobby. The event will include a mini fashion show of corporate uniforms and power dressing, and a panel discussion on corporate imaging, power dressing, E-management, stress and time management, plus makeover sessions. Admission is free.

MAGAZINE LAUNCH. Jessica Zafra, a multi-awarded author, columnist and TV host, will unveil the first issue of Flip Magazine on Aug. 5, at the Mandarin Oriental Ballroom. Flip will be available at National Book Store and major magazine outlets in Metro Manila, Cebu, Davao, Bacolod and Baguio.

FOOD SEMINAR. The ProActive Center for Training will hold a seminar-workshop Aug. 7-16, 1-5 p.m., at Bedas Restaurant, C-5, Libis, QC. Call 787-6370.

MATH QUIZ. The deadline for joining the MSA Math quiz for the Math Whiz has been extended to Aug. 12. Application forms should be submitted to the MSA Academic Advancement Institute at 315 Katipunan Ave., Loyola Heights, QC. Call 660-2780/7531.

PHOTO CONTEST. The Kadayawan sa Davao is the subject of an on-the-spot photo contest Aug. 23-25. FPPFI is located at 7/F, Comfoods Bldg., Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue corner Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Call 843-5341 or 813-7420.

REUNION. The Colegio de San Agustin High School batch '87 will hold its reunion on Aug. 30, 6 p.m., at the Café Villa, at the lower lobby of the New Officer's Club located at the Grandstand in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig. Call Jeanne Young at (0917) 899-9011, RJ Tabuena at (0917) 535-5620 or Jaime Samonte at (0917) 960-1088.

PROMO. Avid Sales Corporation, a chain of retail concept stores in Metro Manila and Cebu, is giving away free VCD and DVD rentals from ACA Video for every purchase of selected Sony Home Video or Sony Hifi from any Avid branch. Upon purchase of any Sony product included in the promo, the customer will get a special free rental coupon until Oct. 14. Call 525-3634, 525-2215 and 525-3547

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New Romance

A definitive fashion collection that celebrates femininity at its most alluring

A captivating medley of ruffles, flounces and swirls, the **SM New Romance Collection** is a distinctive blend of soft fabric and subtle details that capture the essence of femininity.

Evolving from a rich and varied fashion history, SM's New Romance collection epitomizes the carefree and laid-back yet incredibly classy look of the contemporary woman.

Inspired by influences culled from this spring's catwalk events in Europe and United States, the collection is a refreshing contrast to the stark minimalism of the 90's and the glitzy, logo-obsessed turn-of-the-millenium fashion craze.

FEMININE AND CHIC

Ruffles, Frills and lace...
Unmistakably feminine and chic.

New Romance is characterized by loose, flowing styles that are big on whites, neutrals and muted pastels. Romance colors available at SM's Ladies' Wear Department range from pink to rose to powder blue to almond yellow to light grey.

Romantic prints available include calico, paisley, English embroidery patterns and bohemian motifs.

SM offers a wide selection of styles created from a variety of soft fabrics such as cheese cloth, voile, chiffon, swiss cotton and jersey.

Romantic details include lace accents, embroidery in either eyelet or cutwork designs, leather cords, beads, fringes and appliques. Other distinctively feminine details include:

FOR TOPS –
- Lace trimmings on neckline, hemline, sleeves
- Ruffles at neckline, sleeves, hemline
- Printed with lace combination
- Garter on neckline / drawstrings on hemline
- Ruching at shoulders, sides or front
- Tucks and shirring
- Smocking details on shoulders, hemline, sleeves and neckline
- Lace-up details on shoulders and side hems
- Tunics, baby doll and bias cuts

FOR BOTTOMS –
- Denim skirt with crochet patches or floral appliques
- Tier skirt in twill, denim, cotton
- Skirts with ruffles at hemline
Denim skirt with denim lacing detail at hemline
- Flowing skirt with embroidery
- Pleated mini skirt / bootleg pants

HERE ARE A FEW TIPS TO MAKE YOU LOOK YOUR ROMANTIC BEST

(1) Wear your ruffles in places you want to emphasize: wrists, waists, hips or hemline.

(2) An off-shoulder top is revealing enough; so don't pair it with tiny shorts or tight mini.Go for a longer skirt or pants.

(3) If your top gathers at the wrists, leave out the bangles and bracelets. Instead, opt for dangling earrings and pulled-back hair.

(4) Soften the look of a stuffy suit by wearing a lace camisole underneath.

(5) A romantic blouse may be paired with denims or tailored pants

(6) Play against opposites: mix frilly looks with a razored bob and clear face. Or wear blazer with a vintage slip peeking out. Whatever you do, don't go head-to-toe romance. After all, you're not Scarlett O'Hara!

(7) Blushed cheeks, plum lips and soft curls give you a romantic beauty edge when worn with more severe clothing styles

(8) Light skin colors and light shades of pink and violet lipsticks and eye blushes are a must for a very natural and romantic look.

THE RIGHT ACCESSORIES

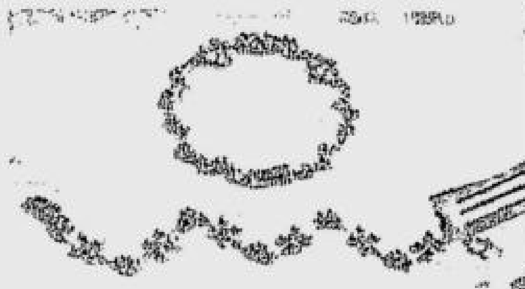
The right accessories to go with the romantic get up are available at the SM Ladies' Accessories Department.

- Silver and turquoise earrings, necklaces and bangles
- Leather cord necklaces and matching wrist bands
- Ethnic pendants and antiqued jewelry
- Filigreed silver accessories

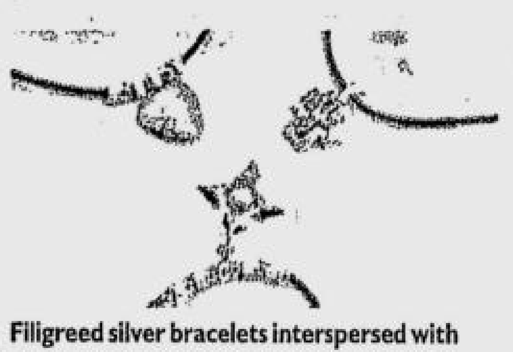
Belts too are essential components of the New Romance wardrobe. SM offers a wide array of fashion belts: studded, fringed, macrame', and jeweled.

- Sex up mini skirts and jeans with a low-slung fringed belt tied to the side over a sheer top
- Slip on jeweled belts over long, flowing skirts and dresses for a romantic evening look.

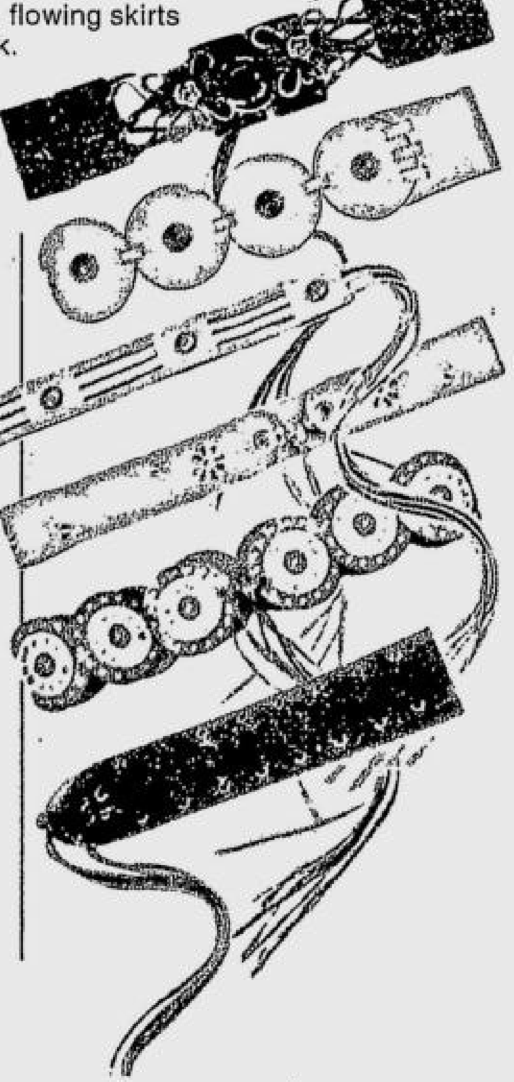
Your new romance wardrobe, if accessorized with tasteful restraint, is guaranteed to make you airily light and joyfully carefree.



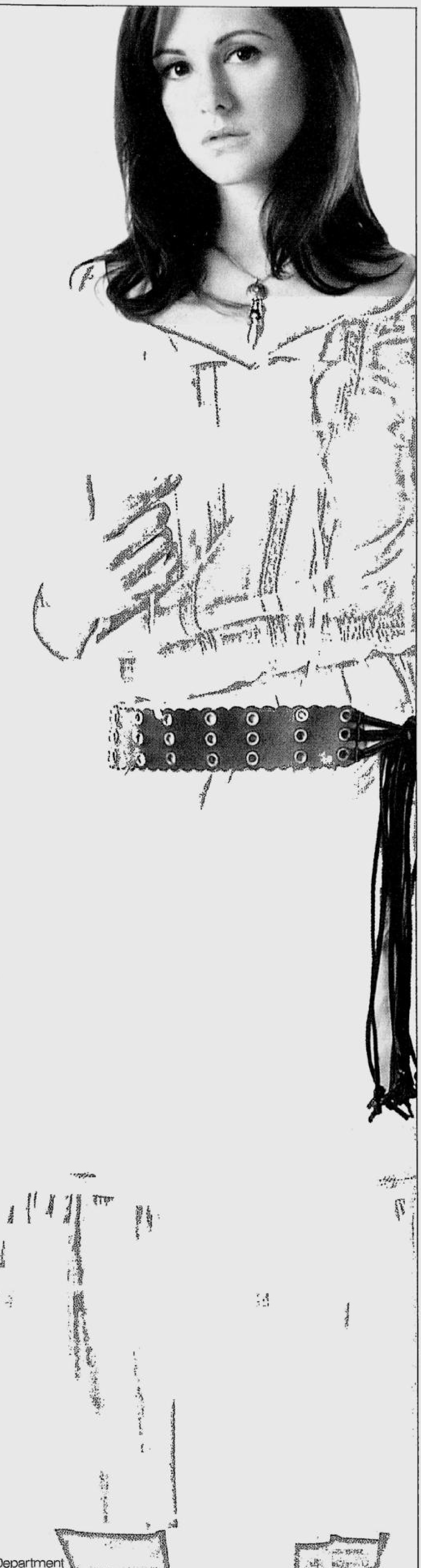
Leather chokers with silver and turquoise pendants



Filigreed silver bracelets interspersed with turquoise in floral patterns



New Romance



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LIF YLE

LOW LEATHER. Pants by Dirk Bikkenbergs and jacket by John Richmond

SUSPENDED SUSPENDERS. Salvatore Ferragamo suspenders are mere accessories to these Gianfranco Ferre jacket and low-rise pants.

Men's pants go low—dangerously

STORY ON PAGE E3

Retailers market low-rise pants, as part of a broader strategy to capitalize on young men's growing appetite for fashion

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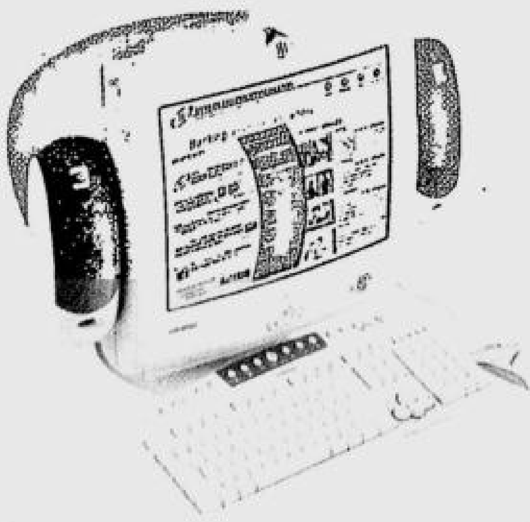

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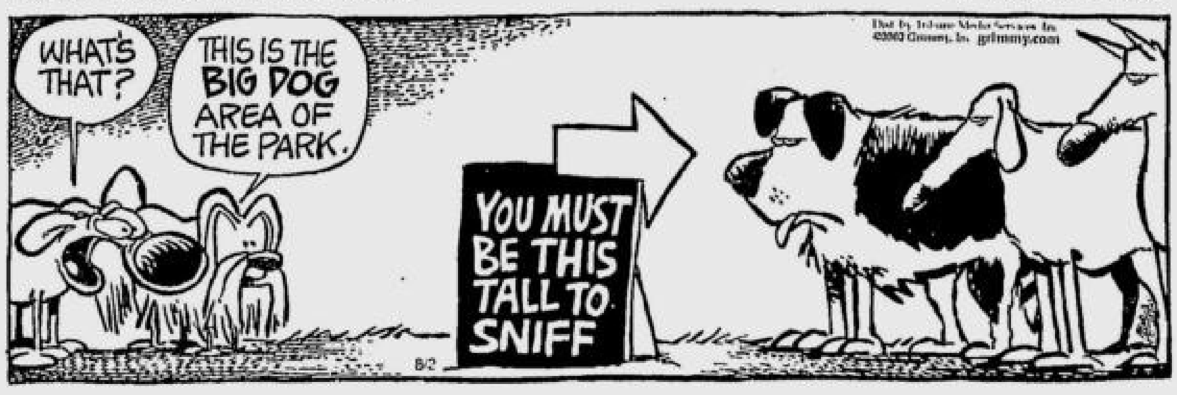
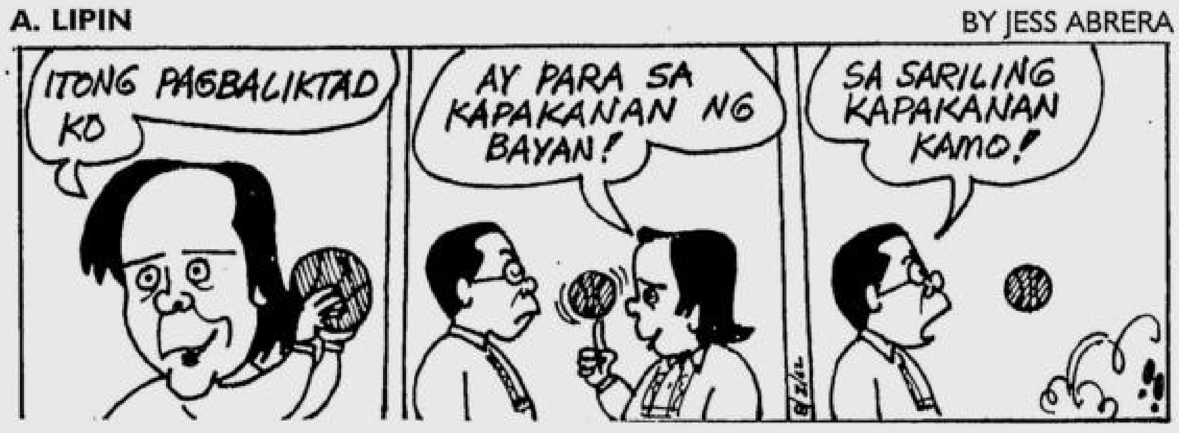
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


WHAT'S THAT?
THIS IS THE BIG DOG AREA OF THE PARK.
YOU MUST BE THIS TALL TO SNIFF
8/2

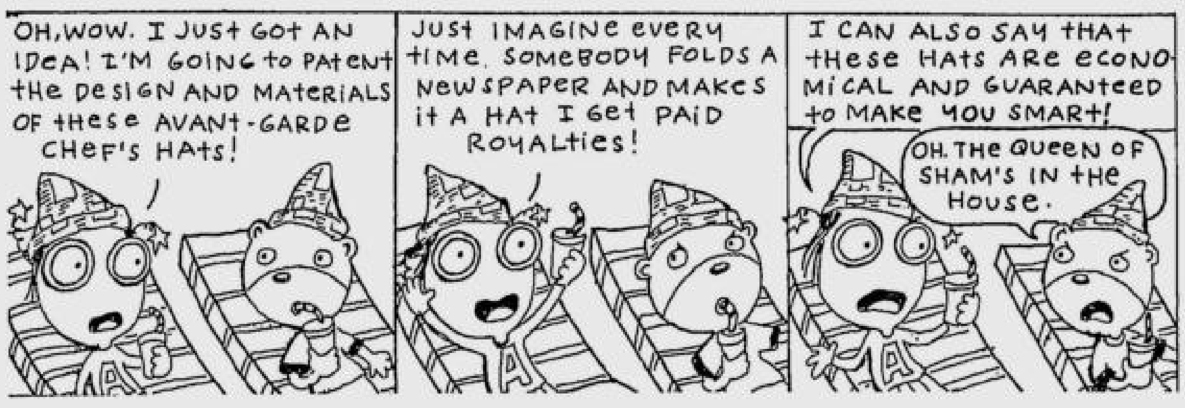
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


ITONG PAGBALIKTAD KO
AY PARA SA KAPAKANAN NG BAYAN!
SA SARILING KAPAKANAN KAMO!

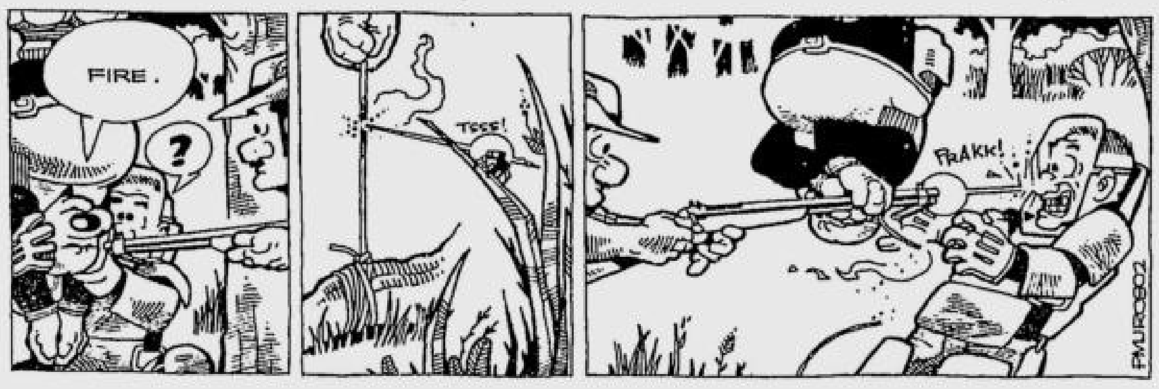
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH, WOW. I JUST GOT AN IDEA! I'M GOING TO PATENT THE DESIGN AND MATERIALS OF THESE AVANT-GARDE CHEF'S HATS!
JUST IMAGINE EVERY TIME SOMEBODY FOLDS A NEWSPAPER AND MAKES IT A HAT I GET PAID ROYALTIES!
I CAN ALSO SAY THAT THESE HATS ARE ECONOMICAL AND GUARANTEED TO MAKE YOU SMART!
OH. THE QUEEN OF SHAM'S IN THE HOUSE.

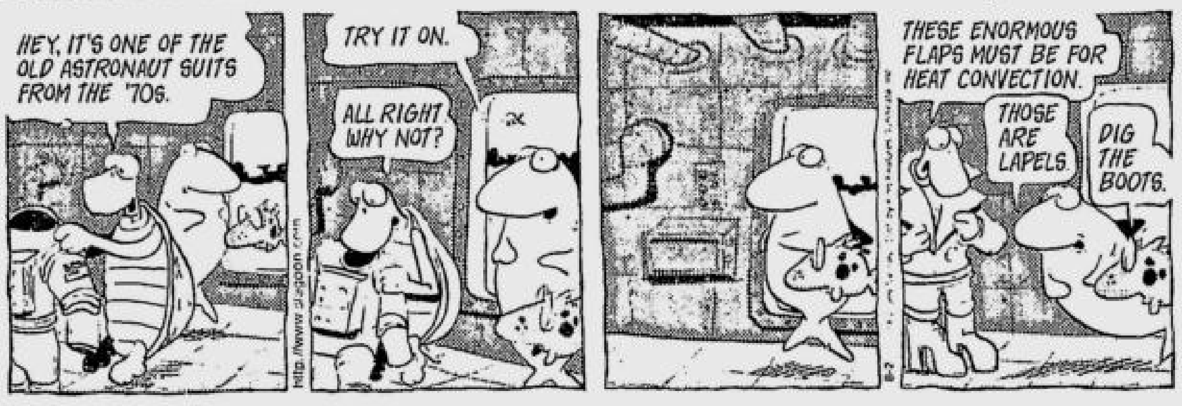
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


FIRE.
?
TSSS!
PRAKK!
PMJR0802

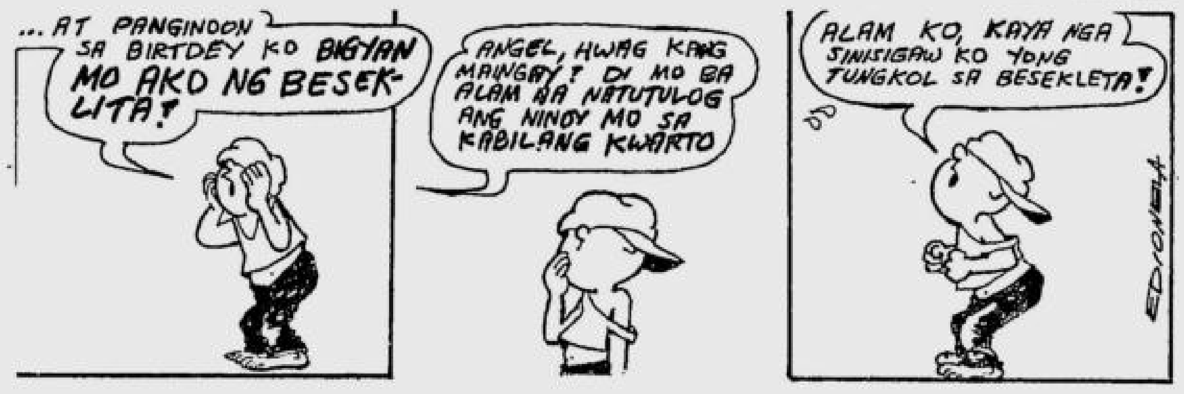
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


HEY, IT'S ONE OF THE OLD ASTRONAUT SUITS FROM THE '70S.
TRY IT ON.
ALL RIGHT WHY NOT?
THESE ENORMOUS FLAPS MUST BE FOR HEAT CONVECTION.
THOSE ARE LAPELS.
DIG THE BOOTS.

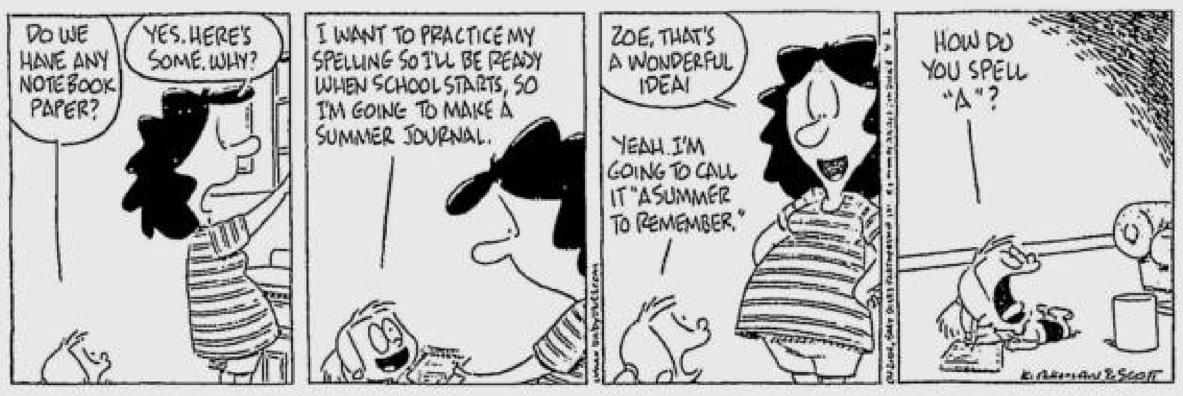
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


...AT PANGINOON SA BIRTDEY KO BIGYAN MO AKO NG BESEKLITA!
ANGEL, HWAG KANG MAINGAY! DI MO BA ALAM NA NATUTULOG ANG NINOY MO SA KABILANG KWARTO
ALAM KO, KAYA NGA SINISIGAW KO YONG TUNGKOL SA BESEKLETA!
EDIONELA

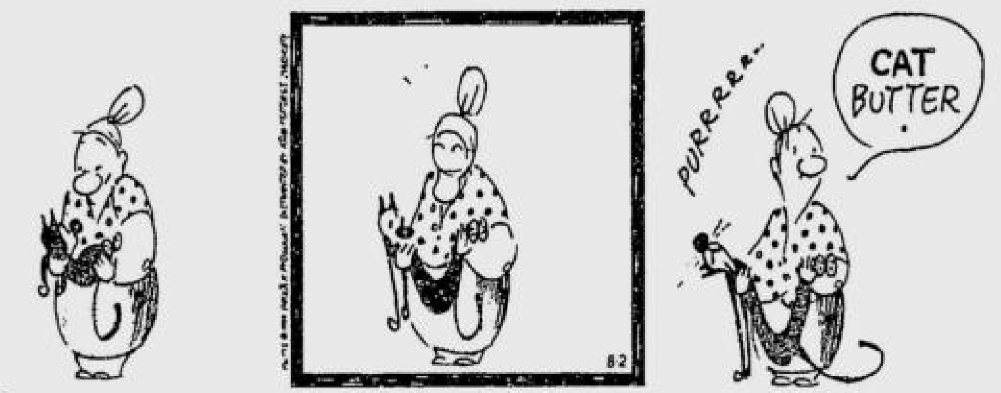
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


DO WE HAVE ANY NOTEBOOK PAPER?
YES. HERE'S SOME. WHY?
I WANT TO PRACTICE MY SPELLING SO I'LL BE READY WHEN SCHOOL STARTS, SO I'M GOING TO MAKE A SUMMER JOURNAL.
ZOE, THAT'S A WONDERFUL IDEA!
YEAH. I'M GOING TO CALL IT "A SUMMER TO REMEMBER."
HOW DO YOU SPELL "A"?
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

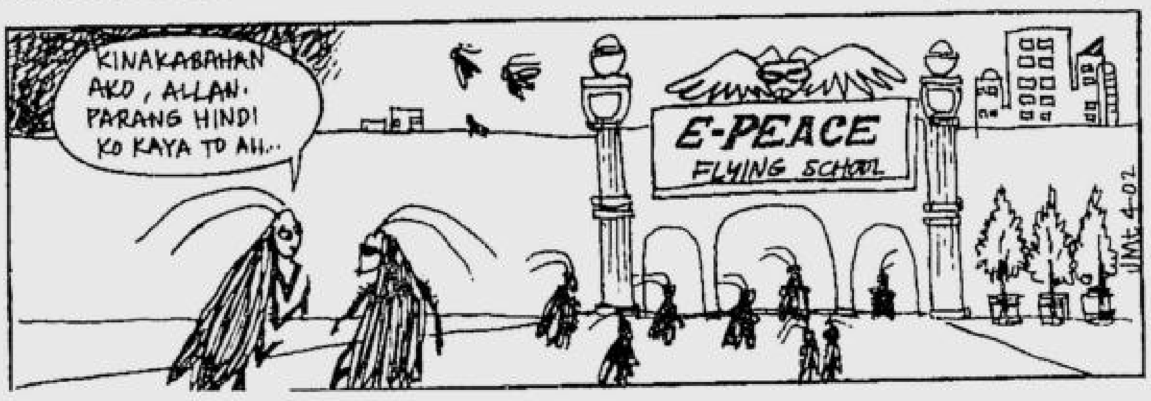
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


8.2
PURRRR...
CAT BUTTER

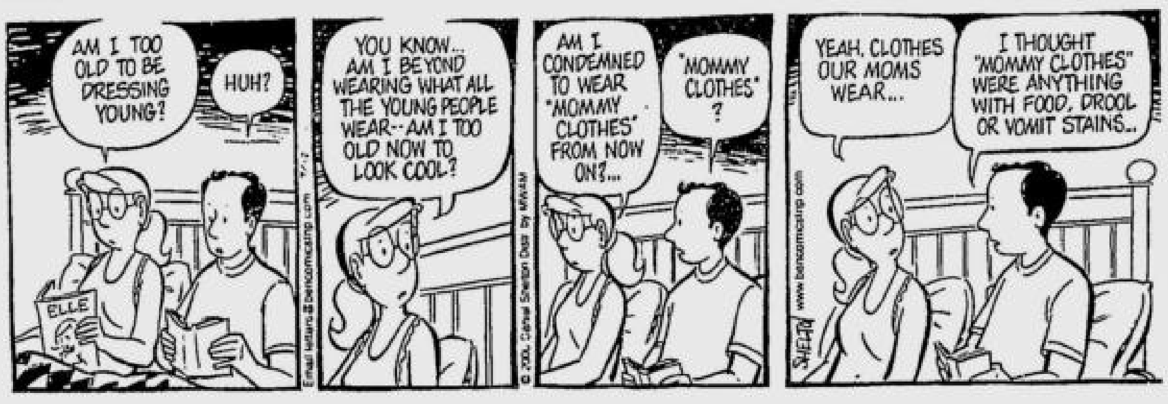
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


KINAKABAHAN AKO, ALLAN. PARANG HINDI KO KAYA TO AH...
E-PEACE FLYING SCHOOL
JMT 4-02

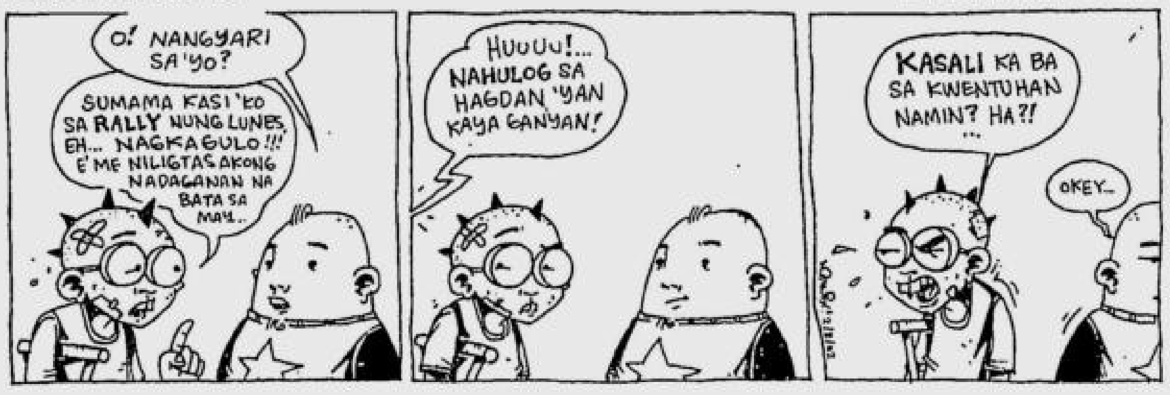
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


AM I TOO OLD TO BE DRESSING YOUNG?
HUH?
ELLE
YOU KNOW... AM I BEYOND WEARING WHAT ALL THE YOUNG PEOPLE WEAR-- AM I TOO OLD NOW TO LOOK COOL?
AM I CONDEMNED TO WEAR "MOMMY CLOTHES" FROM NOW ON?...
"MOMMY CLOTHES"?
YEAH, CLOTHES OUR MOMS WEAR...
I THOUGHT "MOMMY CLOTHES" WERE ANYTHING WITH FOOD, DROOL OR VOMIT STAINS..
SHELTON
www.bencomicstrip.com

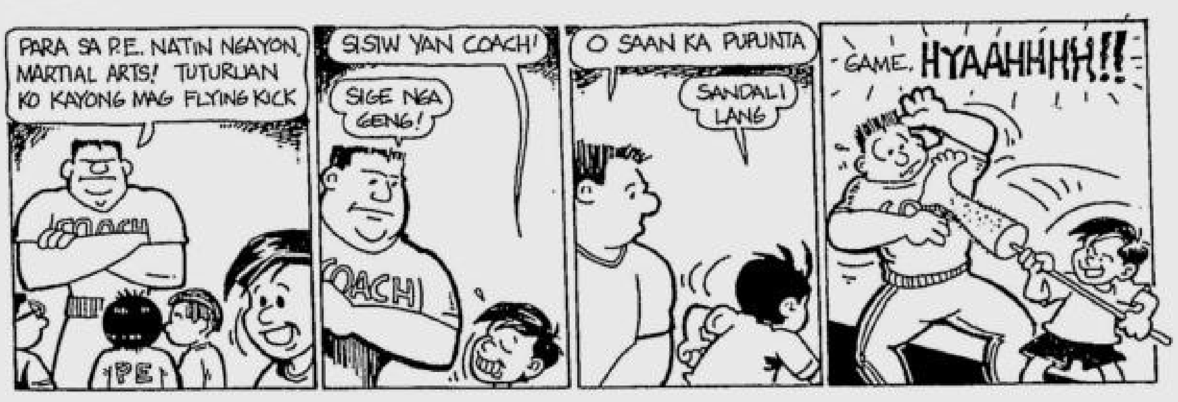
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


O! NANGYARI SA'YO?
SUMAMA KASI 'KO SA RALLY NUNG LUNES, EH... NAGKAGULO!!! E'ME NILIGTAS AKONG NADAGANAN NA BATA SA MAY..
HUUUU!... NAHULOG SA HAGDAN 'YAN KAYA GANYAN!
KASALI KA BA SA KWENTUHAN NAMIN? HA?! ...
OKEY..

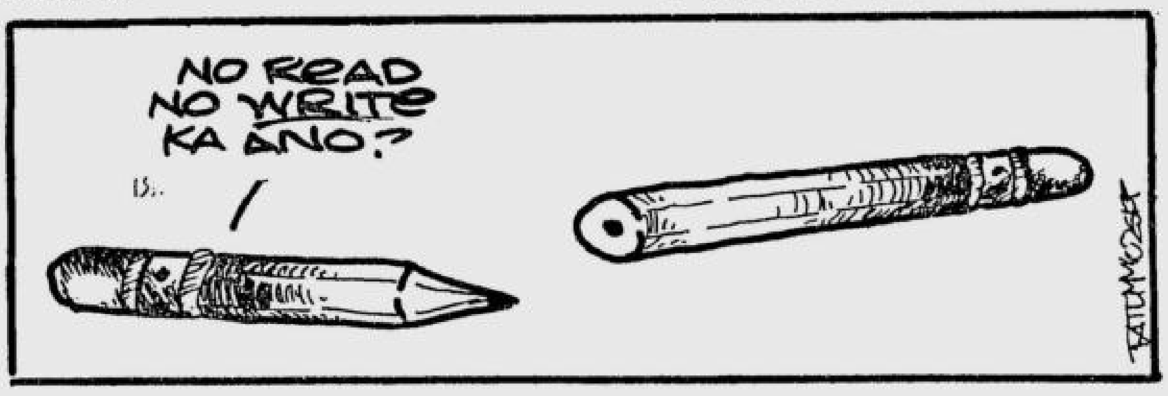
GENG'S GAMES

BY AMIEL RUFO


PARA SA P.E. NATIN NGAYON, MARTIAL ARTS! TUTURUAN KO KAYONG MAG FLYING KICK
COACH
PE
SISIW YAN COACH!
SIGE NGA GENG!
COACH
O SAAN KA PUPUNTA
SANDALI LANG
GAME. HYAAHHHH!!

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


NO READ NO WRITE KA ANO?
TATUMOZER

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Peter O'Toole, Carroll O'Connor, Victoria Jackson, Hallie Eisenberg

Happy Birthday: Don't let your emotions get in the way of your better judgment this year. Be practical in all your dealings. Many opportunities are just around the corner, so be ready. Some health issues may arise if you don't practice sensible diet and get plenty of exercise. Your numbers are 9, 15, 28, 30, 33, 37

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Your intuition will be enhanced and you should feel confident in your dealings. Your ability to put things together well will be admired by your peers and your superiors.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You won't see things the way they really are today. Self-deception is likely, especially when dealing with issues pertaining to partnerships. Ask a trusted friend for advice.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will attract dubious people and organizations that are likely to lead you astray today. You will be faced with opposition if you don't clear your head and think for yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You'll take great pleasure in helping those less fortunate today. Become an active member in a group you believe in, and you will attract new partners and friends.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You should try to associate with those who are creative and unique in their approach to life. Use your intuition and learn by observing others. Someone you care about may be more upset than you first thought.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take a greater interest in your community. Your ability to reason will give you the edge when it comes to helping others. You will have a good handle on everything you do today.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Your interest in making money and achieving success today will lead you into unknown territory. You will be eager to get ahead to provide your family with the freedom that success can bring.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You won't back down if you are romantically interested in someone today, or if you want to get your point across to friends. Your family will be in an uproar if they oppose your choices of entertainment or friends.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Just when you feel comfortable with what you do professionally, something new will be thrown your way. You always shine when your day is full of surprises, so don't shy away this time.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You will use your imagination to entertain your friends. You will enjoy doing things with youngsters. You have a lot to offer and will be admired for your giving nature.

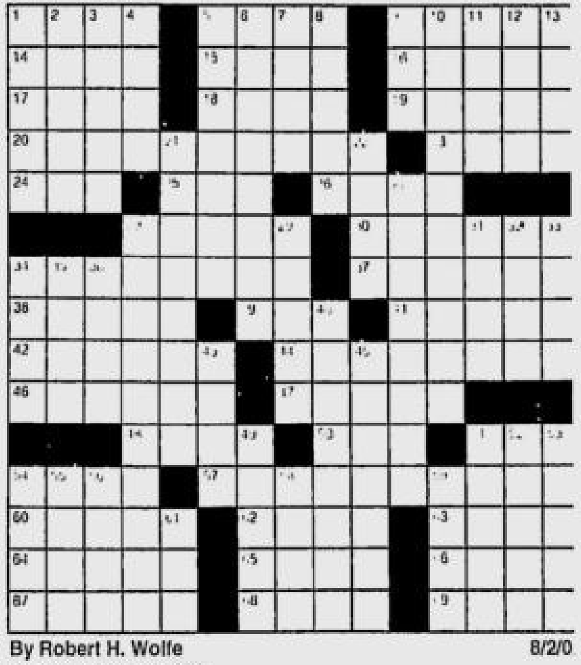
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will want your home to be special. Use your imagination and you'll come up with a unique plan that will get noticed and will pay off at a later date.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Your debate with someone with whom you disagree will make you even more sure that you are right. Chances are this other person will end up wishing that they hadn't put up such a fuss.

Birthday Baby: You will be a self-starter and a stubborn competitor. You will welcome challenges and be ready to do whatever is necessary in order to accomplish what you set out to do.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Robert H. Wolfe
North Woodmere, NY

8/2/0

ACROSS

1 Quantum theorist Niels
5 Amorphous amount
9 Very successful: slang
14 Toast topper
15 Greasy
16 Portable memory
17 Vegas numbers
18 One condo
19 Farm equipment maker
20 Latvian hoer?
23 British gun
24 I told you so
25 Dawn goddess
26 Bro's bros
28 Mutilates
30 Surgical implants
34 One claiming divine right
37 Evening do
38 Sentimental novelist Fannie
39 Alternative to ready?
41 Bow of film
42 Bring out
44 Err on an abacus
46 Recess
47 Anterior
48 Break a habit
50 Blowup of a photo
51 Hot tub
54 Ringlike earring
57 Belarus captain?
60 Messenger
62 Business VIPs
63 Olden days
64 Vertical post
65 Hall: pref.
66 Delineate
67 Loafer bottoms
68 Idyllic place
69 "Lohengrin" lady

DOWN

1 Rude ones
2 Song of the past
3 Avoid taking a stand
4 Parks of black history
5 Lady's room
6 Tennis official
7 "Havana" star Lena
8 Computer memory units
9 A following?
10 Ukrainian seaman?
11 Bother
12 Woods warning
13 Portent
21 Responsive
22 Fixes
27 Green vegetable
28 Russian rancher?
29 Crush
31 German wife
32 Fork-tailed seabird
33 Do ushering
34 Composer Musgrave
35 Ship part
36 __ the Red
40 Boring
43 Side in a contest
45 Gets through a skull?
49 Alcove
51 Ruin
52 Salon sets
53 Field of endeavor
54 Shell rival
55 Aware of
56 Oblong circle
58 Requisite
59 Gomer of Mayberry
61 Okay

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

B	A	C	H	■	M	A	C	A	W	■	W	A	Y	S
A	B	L	E	■	A	R	O	M	A	■	A	L	U	M
K	E	E	P	A	L	O	W	P	R	O	F	I	L	E
E	L	F	■	B	A	S	S	■	■	R	E	V	E	L
■	■	■	C	E	D	E	■	S	P	A	R	E	S	T
R	E	A	L	T	Y	■	S	T	E	T	S	■	■	■
A	L	G	A	■	■	A	T	O	N	E	■	T	W	O
P	L	A	Y	H	I	D	E	A	N	D	S	E	E	K
T	A	P	■	U	N	M	E	T	■	■	H	A	I	R
■	■	■	E	N	T	E	R	■	S	I	E	R	R	A
P	A	R	A	G	O	N	■	P	I	G	S	■	■	■
A	B	A	T	E	■	■	S	O	S	O	■	U	S	E
C	O	V	E	R	O	N	E	S	T	R	A	C	K	S
E	V	E	R	■	R	I	N	S	E	■	C	L	I	P
D	E	N	Y	■	E	L	D	E	R	■	E	A	S	Y

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8/2/0

Men's pants go low—dangerously

NEW YORK—A guy shopping for a pair of basic jeans this fall might think he has stumbled into the women's department.

Retailers and clothing manufacturers including Levi Strauss & Co. and American Eagle Outfitters Inc. are focusing on a trendier look for young men, including low-rise jeans that hug the hips—similar to the pants that a year ago became a must-have style for teen girls and young women.

At Limited Inc.'s Express men's division, 25 percent of its men's pants for the back-to-school season will be low-rise styles. Merchants are hoping that low-rise pants, along with tighter-fitting sweaters, tinted jeans and other looks, will help fuel sales in the young men's category, which targets the 18-34 age group. The segment has just started to rebound after slumping for more than a year.

One of the interesting twists about these new fashions is that they look more like women's clothes than traditional men's apparel.

"Stores are recognizing that today's guy may choose to dress a lot like today's girl," says Marian Salzman, chief strategy officer at Euro RSCG Worldwide, a New York-based marketing company. "There is a lot more blurring of what is female and what is male."

HOLLYWOOD actress James King in low-rise Polo Jeans

Retailers believe that might be the result of young men's growing appetite for stylish clothes.

"In general, it has always been a cliché that men were not interested in fashion. But younger men are shopping now with more confidence because they have all these fashion icons to look up to in sports and music," says Mark Minsky, senior vice president of merchandising at Doneger Group, an apparel buying company.

Bridget Russo, spokesperson for Diesel USA, says, "Guys are becoming more and more daring, and open to trying more fashion-forward products."

Most of the national mall-based store chains aren't showing men's pants that hug as low as the women's low-rise versions, but the rise—measured from the top of the inseam to the top of the waist band—is definitely much lower than on traditional styles, and it's falling. After successfully testing men's pants with a 9-inch rise last year, merchants this season are now marketing rises as low as 7 inches.

The traditional rise for men is 12 inches, which typically ends a half-inch below the navel.

Levi's, which backed its offerings of low-rise jeans for women last year with heavy advertising, has launched its "Dangerously Low" campaign in August issues of magazines, promoting the look for both men and women.

Levi's is selling men's jeans with rises as low as 7.5 inches. Its women's low-rise pants are now down to 7 inches.

Some trend trackers like consultant Irma Zandl believe the time is right for body-tight clothes, given that a new wave of rock bands, such as Phantom Planet, The Hives and The Stroke, are sporting low-slung pants, the uniform of the rock rebel.

But some industry executives, while recognizing the need for more fashion, are not convinced that low-rise styles, featured by fashion-forward men's wear designers two years ago, will have broad appeal.

"This seems to be in a way manufactured," says Michael Wood, VP of research for Teenage Research Unlimited, a market research company.

At Diesel, Russo notes, there will "always be a guy out there who wants the loose basic pants."

Macy's East, while infusing its men's floors this back-to-school season with a variety of denim washes and treatments, is featuring limited low-rise offerings.

"This is not something we are going to bank on," says Joe Denofrio, senior VP of fashion.

In fact, Eddie Bencosme, 21, from Chattanooga, Tennessee, found shopping at cheap chic retailer Hennes & Mauritz on a recent Tuesday, said he was "interested in clothes," and is a fan of Prada, Banana Republic and Brooks Brothers, but is leery about buying low-rise pants. "They don't seem that comfortable," he says.

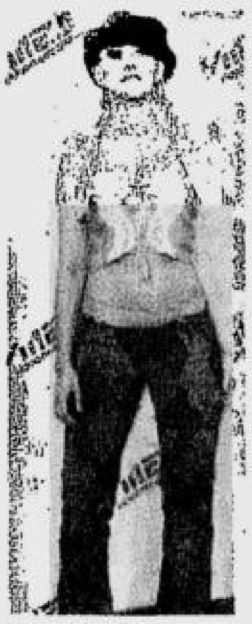
To attract shoppers like Bencosme, Levi's and others realize they need to do some creative advertising.

Levi's, which had marketed low-rise pants in the late 1960s and early 1970s, is playing up the message that it takes a confident man to be willing to take risks. The company's print ad campaign, which is set in gritty urban locations, appears in the August issues of such magazines as Teen People, Glamour and Maxim, while TV advertising will be unveiled on July 29.

"We're using low-rise jeans to recreate what it means to be a hero again," says Anna Brockway of Levi's. *AP*

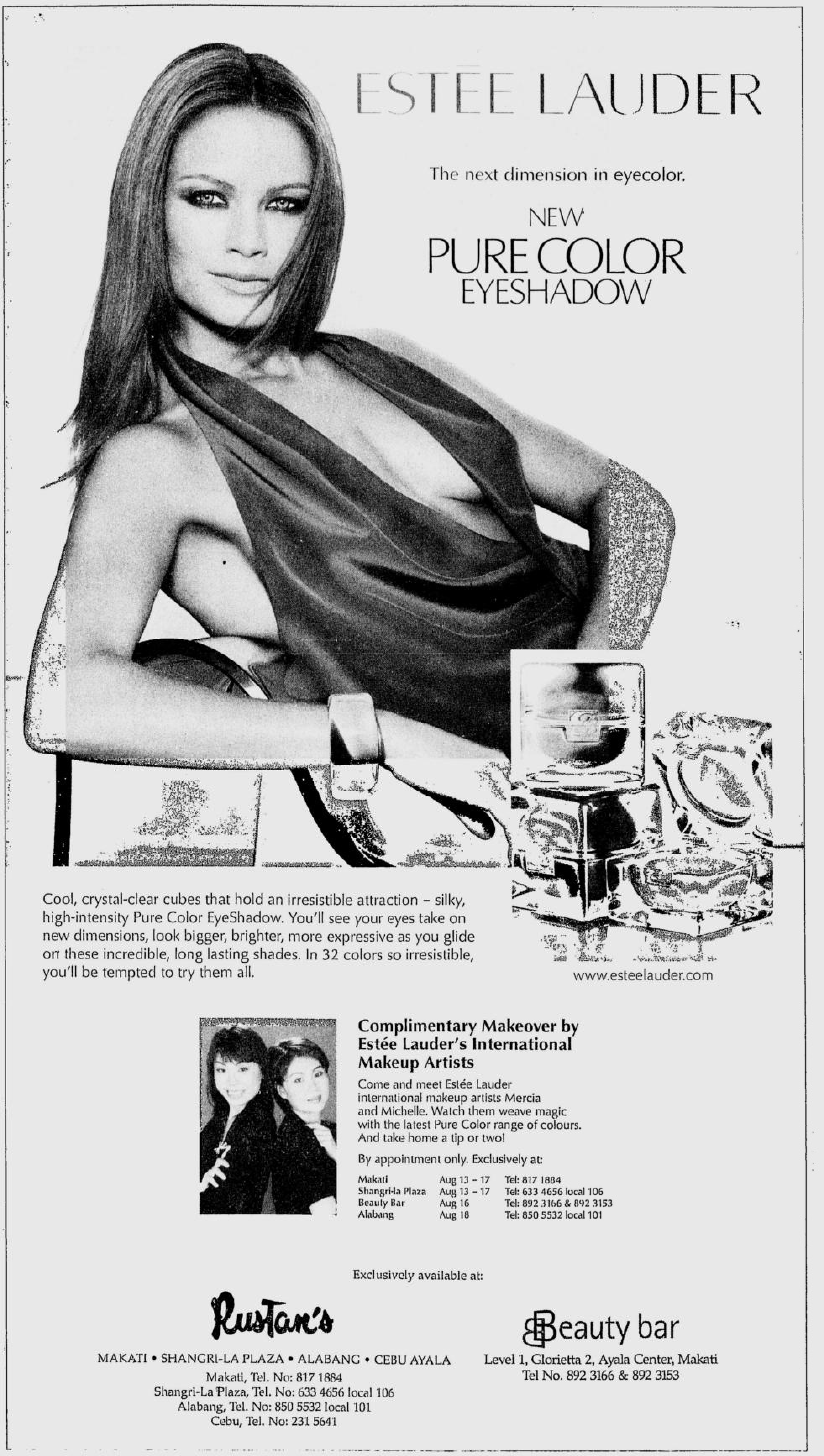
UBIQUITOUS Guess? ad shows new low-rise jeans line.

PHOTOS REPRINTED FROM DUTCH AND GLAMOUR



CHRISTINA Aguilera in too-low patchwork jeans

FLARED WITH A FLAIR. The ends may touch the ground, but the waist is quite remote from the navel. Jeans by Energie



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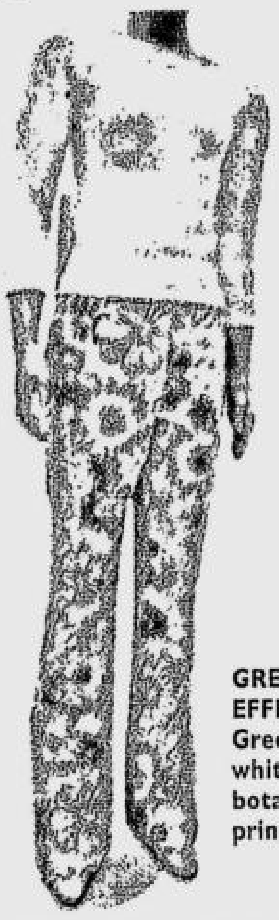
The flowering of pants



GREENHOUSE EFFECT. Green and white botanical printed pants

Pants make a woman's day, especially if they're in florals

ALL ITEMS FROM TINTORETTO, NEW GREENBELT MALL

PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

By Camille Cruz-Reyes
Contributor

NOTHING is more essential to a woman's ward robe than a flattering pair of pants. Good pants will take you far. They are stylish. If you get the floral ensemble right, everything falls into place.

Pair botanical printed pants with a comfortable fitted knit top or a nicely fit tailored shirt tucked-in. You're never too summery with this look. You may also try earthly prints that may have a touch of black to pair with a neutral top. Finish the outfit with a great pair of shoes and other accessories. Pants like these may be best with nice flat-soled shoes with rubber soles, like the new line of JP TODD shoes.

DOWN TO EARTH. Earth-toned floral printed pants

THE BLUE VERSION. Blue and white botanical printed pants

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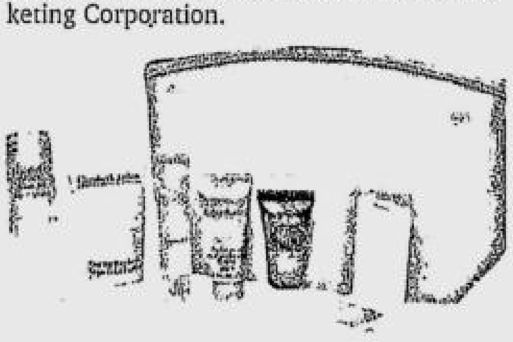
Visit Elizabeth Arden counters. Offer good while supplies last. Elizabeth Arden products are exclusively distributed by Rustan's Marketing Corporation.



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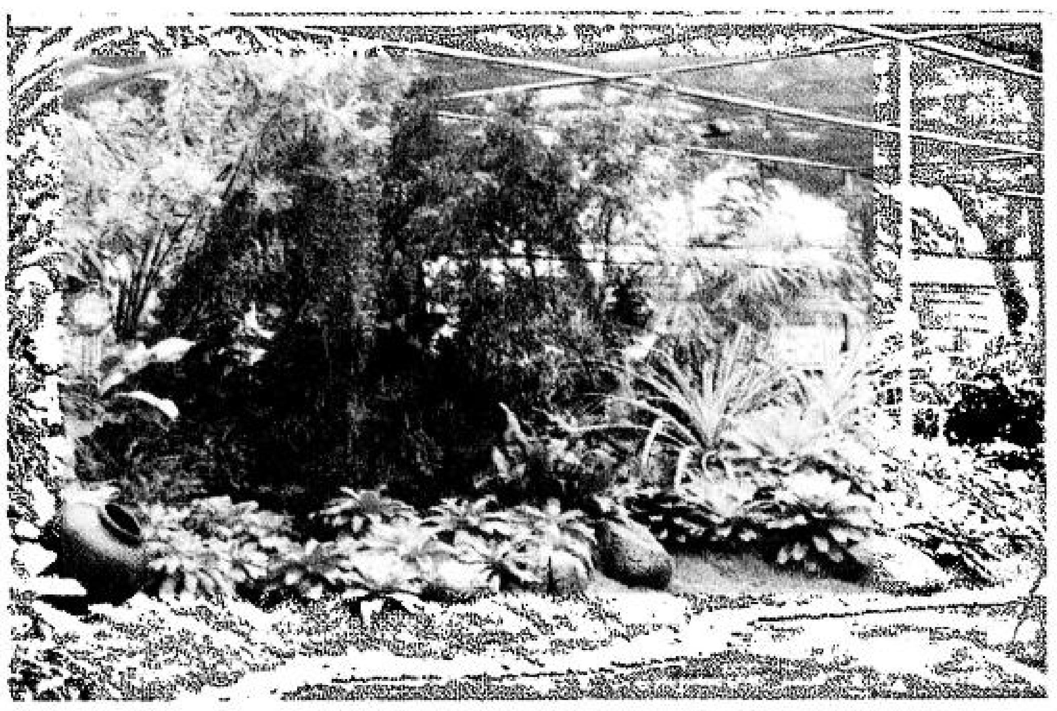

THE FIRST prize winner in the landscaping competition has colorful bromeliads grown by Llora Reyes of H & L Orchid Farm. Landscaper is Roel de la Peña.

> Capiz is now the undisputed garden capital of Western Visayas

Roxas City fair boasts of exotic plants

By Tita V. Giron

"BETTER than last time" was how Roxas City's garden people described their horticultural fair and food festival held last week in front of the Capiz provincial capitol. Having attended previous garden exhibits in the country's seafood capital, we can say they have the right to brag about their show.

The landscaped booths alone could compete in any Manila show. And the bromeliads and aglaonemas were more spectacular than the varieties we had seen so far in the south.

Capiz is now the undisputed garden capital this side of the Visayas. It used to be Iloilo in the 1980s when the best garden shows were held every year at Jaro town. Moreover, the biggest plant market in those days was in the next town of Arevalo where the "in" things were bougainvilleas and orchids. These days, many garden people go to Roxas City, not only for new plants, but also for landscaping

ROXAS/ p.F2

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SWIFT Frozen Chicken TLC PRICE P67.00 /kg. Reg. Price 71.00
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LAMB CURRY
Ingredients:

1 kilo	MONTEREY LAMB CUBES
1/4 cup	oil
1/4 cup	chopped ginger
6 cloves	Taiwan garlic, chopped
2 tbsp	coriander seeds, ground
1 tsp	cayenne pepper
2 tsp	cumin powder
1 tbsp + 1 tsp	curry powder
1 tbsp	salt
5 to 6 cups	water
1/2 cup	coconut milk
1/4 kilo	potatoes, cut into cubes
2 tbsp	flour

Procedure:

Heat oil in a large saucepan over medium-high heat. Add ginger and garlic. Stir fry for 1 to 2 minutes or until garlic is brown. Stir in coriander seeds, cayenne pepper, cumin, curry powder, salt and 1/2 cup of water. Mix well and reduce heat. Partially cover and simmer for 7 to 8 minutes or until a thin film of oil starts to separate from the sauce. Stir in the lamb, simmer uncovered for 6 to 8 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add the rest of the water, cover and simmer for another 45 minutes to 1 hour, stirring occasionally until meat is tender. Add potatoes and cook until tender. Transfer some of the sauce into a bowl and add the flour. Mix well and make sure that there are no lumps. Return flour mixture to the saucepan and remove from heat. Gradually stir in the coconut milk. Serve immediately.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

* For more recipes, log on to www.sanmiguelculinary.com

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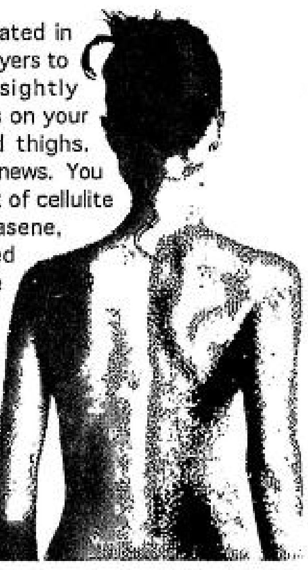

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NEOREGELIA fenestralis grown by Edna A. Viterbo is first in ornamental plant competition.

Roxas City fair boasts of exotic plants

From page F1

services.

The horticulture fair exhibited many exotic plants, including new varieties that members of the Capiz Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc. bought during their recent trip to the Floriade international horticulture show in the Netherlands.

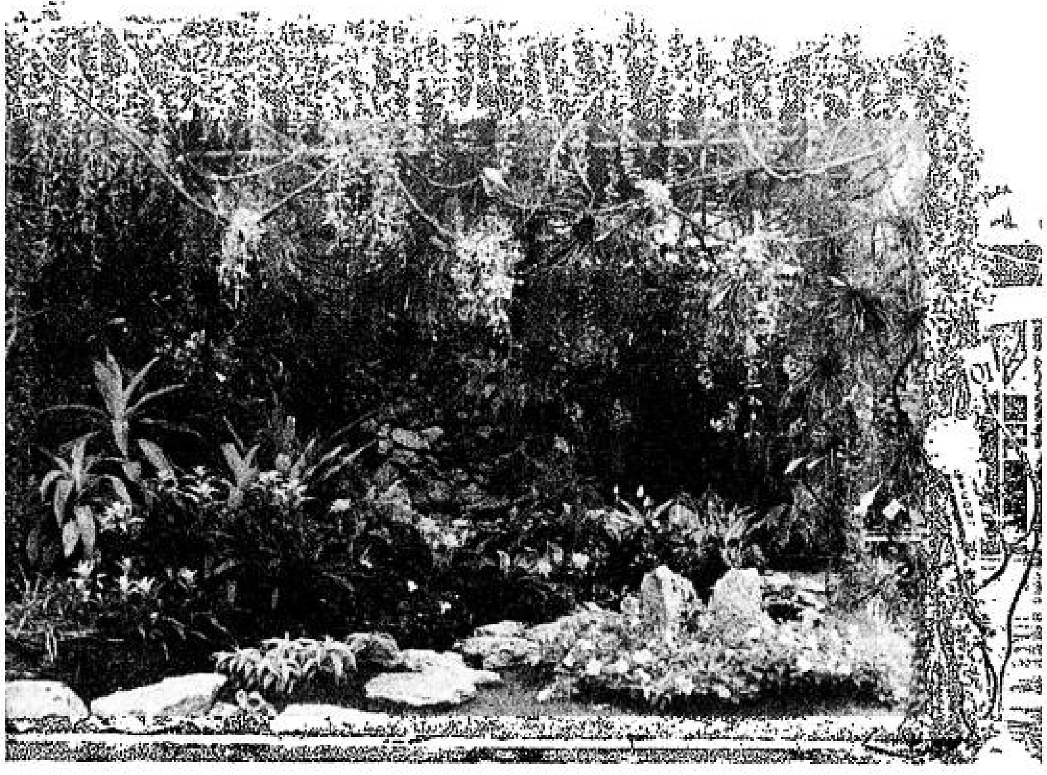
The show also featured the fresh seafood section where live crabs, shrimps, *talangka* and scallops were top sellers.

Bromeliads and blooming orchids, on the other hand, were top sellers in the garden show.

For more information about plants and the garden club of Roxas City, write to the Capiz Multi-Purpose Cooperative Inc.

E-mail the author at mgiron@i-manila.com.ph

VARIEGATED dieffenbachia wins second prize in ornamental plant competition.



SUNSHINE Farm of Lily C. Ong bags second prize in landscaping competition. Joe Padernilla is landscape artist.

'Alien' invaders pose serious health risks

SEEING GREEN

Doris Gaskell Nuyda

IF YOU think we have problems of water pollution in the Pasig, take note of this: Scientists now say it is not so much the garbage dumped into the Pasig from households and factories as the very poor sewerage system that's causing all the trouble.

We are informed that our sewers are the same old ones built by the Americans at the turn of the century (1900, that is), and nothing has been done to improve or expand them since. Imagine all the effluent—let's call it plain filth—that is drained into the Pasig, and from there to the Manila Bay, and with a potential to cause disease.

But filthy water is not just a Pasig problem. We should all be aware also of the health threat posed by ships that sail the oceans, because the bacteria that cause ship-borne pollution are like silent invaders very often unseen by the naked eye.

A report by Ben Harder in Science News (April 2002) tells us of the "hordes of organisms" that stowaway in trans-oceanic vessels through ballast water, which stabilizes a ship when it has no cargo. The water is flushed out when the ship loads up. As Harder sees it, the ship's need for stability is what destabilizes aquatic ecosystems around the world. A ship's ballast water may be equivalent to a small lake—more than 100,000 tons — and is carried, along with millions of organisms that enter the tanks with the water, for thousands of miles. When the organisms are flushed out into a port or waterway, some of them "may begin to crowd out native species and disrupt local ecosystem." (One instantly recalls Ernesto Alvarez's thesis [PDI, 07/05/02] on the mahogany plantation in Los Baños, Laguna, where he observed how the mahogany, being an exotic species, prevented native species from growing along with them).

The Americans are particularly concerned about this oceanic invasion because they see it happening in their own waterways, presenting "a Pandora's box of ecological peril." Environmental researchers and the Coast Guard have pinpointed the Great Lakes-North America port of entry as the most susceptible for it has already been colonized by 162 non-indigenous aquatic species. Among the invaders are the zebra mussel which first came to the US from the Black Sea, and has become an economic and environmental disaster, say marine scientists. Other "invaders" are green crabs, sea lamprey, ruff and round gobies.

The Coast Guard estimates that the US loses billions of dollars every year dealing with problems arising from these invasive aquatic species. Zebra mussels are not only inedible to most North American indigenous species, they also form massive colonies "that strangle native ecosystems." The mussels clog water pipes of industrial plants, adds Harder, causing those plants to reduce or suspend operations. Already, zebra mussels have taken on the Great Lakes ports and sectors in Quebec, New Orleans and Oklahoma.

American scientists have been working hard to stem this invasion. But so far, nothing concrete has been achieved. They've tried exchanging freshwater ballast water while still in the ocean, hoping that the freshwater organisms would be destroyed in sea water and, inversely, when dumped into freshwater, the saltwater organisms would be destroyed as well. A law was even passed to put an official stamp on this system, but so far, no criteria have been set to ensure that it would work.

In the fight against this enormous pollution problem, the one offering the most promising solution, although still in the works, is a two-stage process that evolved from two different researches. The first involves the use of fine mesh barriers or sieves to screen out anything of a certain size from incoming water. Those organisms are then made to pass through ultraviolet radiation with enough energy to kill small organisms on even short exposure. Since radiation is particularly effective at eliminating microorganisms, and filtration is more effective at screening large organisms, the idea to use the two methods in tandem was suggested. The benefits here, it is pointed out, is that filtration clarifies the water by removing sediments, making it easier for UV rays to penetrate the incoming water.

Why should Filipinos be concerned about all this? Because, for all we know, it may already be happening here and we don't even know it, since US and other ships come to our shores regularly. It also raises the question: If we can't solve our sewerage problems, can we solve this?

LUZ Cruz, MGC president Ma. Luisa Perez-Rubio, Belen King, Anita Magsaysay-Ho, Linda Miranda and Randy Roa. Standing, from left, Linda Angeles, Rosario Agustines (partly hidden), Ging delos Reyes, Melinda Zenarosa, Liat Ungson, Gretchen Cojuangco, Emily Cruz, Marilou Laurena, Socorro Paterno and Jovie Bunao.

Makati Garden Club holds garden show and sale

TIBOUCHINA HETEROMALLA

This evergreen spreading shrub grows to a height of 3 ft with a spread of 4 ft. The erect stems rise directly from the base; the 4- to 6-inch long leaves are velvety and whitish green on the underside. Five-petalled, violet-panicles which may be up to 8 inch long and 2-3 inches in diameter.

MAKATI Garden Club will be holding a garden show and sale today and tomorrow, Aug. 3, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Makati Garden Club grounds, Ayala Avenue corner Edsa and Recoletos Street, Makati. The show will feature a variety of rare heirloom plants collected by members for display and for sale, among them hoya, creeping *ilang-ilang, bicho risambra thyrsiflora* and *tribouchina heteromalla*. Also for sale will be assorted junipers, bougainvillea, ferns, water lilies, lagerstromea, stephanotis, and other exotic plants and fresh cut flowers. Beautiful garden produce such as capiscum, sweet pineapple, melon, corn, *arugula* and others will be on sale, as well as a variety of unusual pots, garden tools, brooms, baskets, hats, fertilizers and insecticides. Garden and patio furniture handmade by Sonya Garcia will also be on display. There will be flower-arranging demonstrations, as well as lectures on plant care. Entrance is free. Call 818-2670 or 817-2738.

Floral arrangement competition

PUENTESPINA Orchids and Tropical Plants Inc. will hold its second national invitational flower arrangement competition at the Puentespina Orchids and Tropical Plants warehouse at the Manila Seedling Bank compound in the corner of Edsa and Quezon Avenue, QC, on Aug. 10 at 2 p.m.

Dubbed Waling Cup 2002, the contest will feature the country's most talented floral artists, designers and arrangers. Highlight is a short floral demonstration by Keefe, a top floral arranger from Taiwan.

Orchid shop has new branch

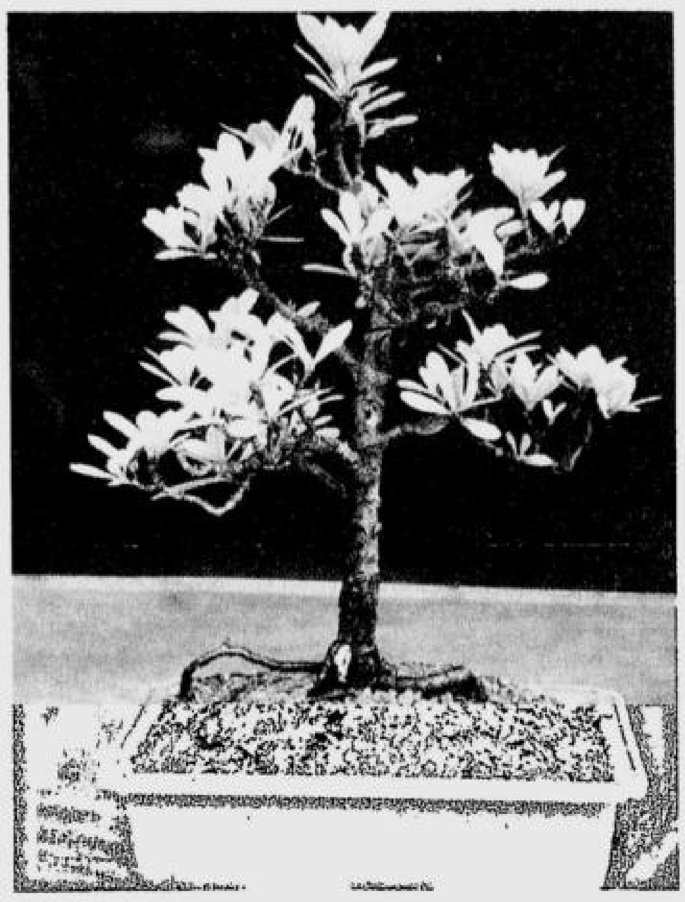
THE PURIFICACION Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. will open its newest branch at the SM Manila on Aug. 15. It is specifically located at the G/F beside the mall's main entrance. According to Anna Ruth P. Conde, marketing manager, Manilans will have a chance to get the plants and flowers they need for their gardens and collections. For several years now, the Purificacion orchids management and staff have been receiving numerous inquiries and requests regarding the opening of a branch in Manila.

"Now residents of Manila need not go too far and endure the traffic just to get their gardening needs," says Conde. "The SM Manila branch will have a wide range of orchids for collection and cut flowers such as dendrobiums, phalaenopsis and many more. There will also be other potted flowering plants such as mini chrysanthemums, mini roses, anthuriums, gerberas, adenium; ornamental plants like cacti, bromeliads, ferns, palms, calladiums, philodendrons, aglaonemas, dieffenbachias and more."

During its opening, the Purificacion Orchids and Ornamentals Inc. SM Manila branch will offer a month-long discount sale up to Sept. 19 on all the plants and gardening accessories, tools, pots, and fertilizers and pesticides. Many of the plants on display and on sale are ideal for indoors, offices and gardening in the urban environment, Anna Ruth emphasizes.

WHEN the tree is nice and beautiful, transfer the plant to a prepared tray with potting medium.

> 'Anybody can easily grow bonsai if one is truly interested'



ANCIENT-LOOKING santan tree with its graceful network of leaves, twigs, branches and roots in their artistic and natural-looking forms.

ARRANGE the plant and top the soil with moss.

Make your own bonsai

From page F4

live longer and can be miniaturized. The plants must have fine, graceful leaves, and can be cultured to achieve a tree-like effect. For trees, Metilla recommends mulberry tree, junipers, *kamuning*, *camachile*, *chico*, *sampaloc*, *duhat*, *balete* and *molave*. He suggests bougainvillea, azalea, *santan*, rosal and boxwood for shrubs or bushes. For this article, Metilla uses santan.

He adds that, ideally, containers must be low. They can be in any shape—oval, basin-shaped, rectangular, square or irregular. Personally, I prefer the irregular shape for a more decorative effect. Containers may be made of ceramics or pottery, cement, rocks, driftwood, wooden or stone slabs, metal or plastic trays.

Beginners will need the following tools and materials: pruning scissors (ordinary scissors can also be used), water sprayer, aluminum or copper wires of different sizes (for bending or curving the branches), sphagnum moss, strings or straw for tying, and potting medium.

Metilla does not recommend the use of ordinary garden soil especially if it is clayey as the plant will not thrive well. The soil will cake or harden preventing the roots from growing, impairing the bonsai's development. Potting medium is better as it already consists of one part compost or humus (organic fertilizer), one part ordinary soil (loam) and one part coarse river sand. It is readily available in most garden shops.

In bonsai-making, it is essential to learn how to shape the plants. "The purpose of pruning or nipping the buds is to cut or shorten a long, narrow branch or twig, to encourage more buds to grow and to eliminate ugly or out-of-place branches," says Metilla. Remove buds which are not growing in the right place. For example, buds that grow in clusters should be removed, leaving only a healthy one.

Serapion Metilla gives special demonstration and classes on bonsai culture, flower arrangement, Ikebana, dish gardening and terrarium-making. He also sells assorted plants, fertilizers, pots and vases, dish garden and miniature falls. Call 939-4593.

E-mail the author at vbagaoa inquirer.com.ph

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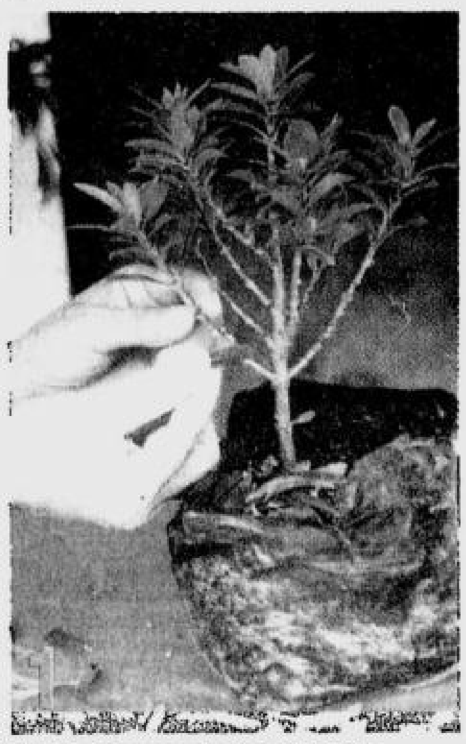
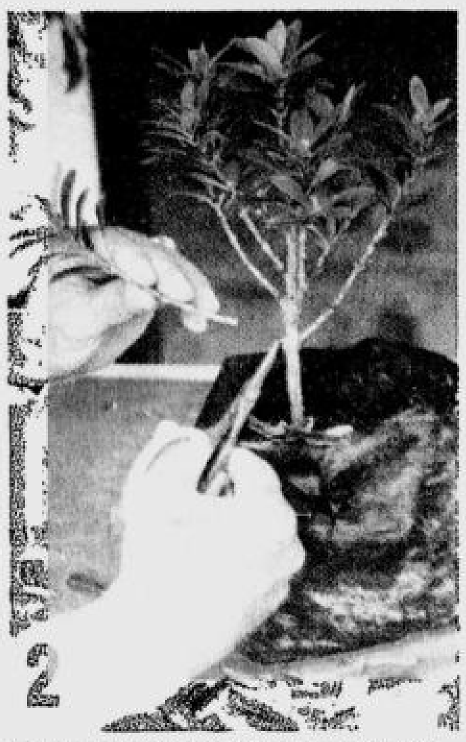
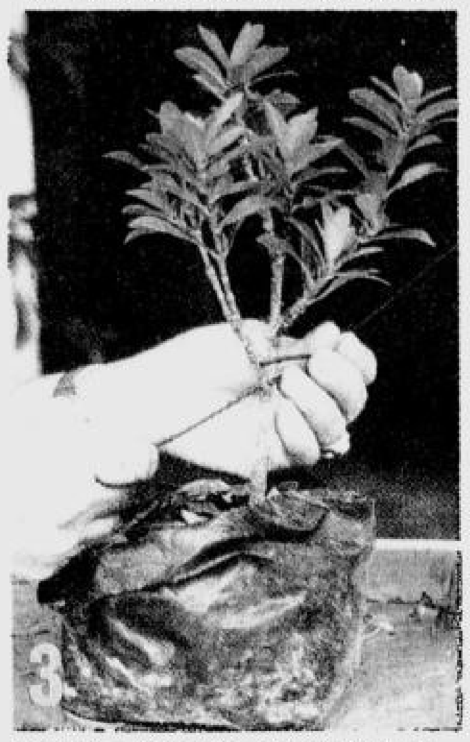


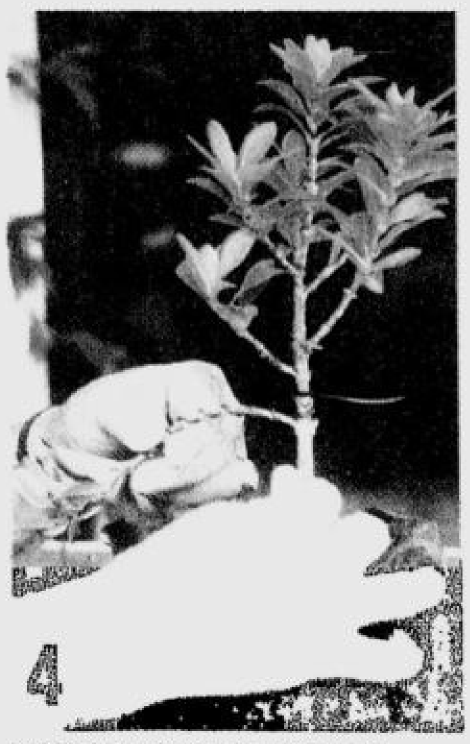
TRIM off excess leaves from the trunks to show the lines and potential branches that have to be retained or removed later.



CUT OFF unwanted trunks from the base going upward. To create a tree-like effect, leave at least ¼ inch of space between the base and the first trunk.



TIE wire around the branch. Secure first one end of the wire to the base of the chosen branch, then carefully and gradually wind around in a spiral up to the end of the branch.



BEND branch slightly with your fingers to achieve the desired shape, taking care not to break any part and making the bends look natural.

AFTER wiring, trim off excess leaves.

Make your own bonsai

Text by Vangie Baga-Reyes
Photos by Romy Homillada

THE MAKING of bonsai is still not well understood especially by those who haven't been to plant exhibits or garden shows. Many think that any plant in a small container is a bonsai.

CRAFTS

Started by the Chinese, bonsai is the art of "dwarfing" trees or plants, letting them develop into aesthetically appealing shapes by growing, pruning and training them in containers. The art was further developed and perfected by the Japanese who gave it the name by which it is now known. "Bon" means pot while "sai" means to plant. Literally, bonsai means potted plants.

While most bonsai plants, especially those that come from good cultures and are well cultivated, are very expensive, people who like them but cannot afford to pay the price are encouraged to produce their own. "Anybody, even without formal education, can easily grow bonsai if one is truly interested. It can also be a profitable hobby," says Serapion Metilla, consultant and one of the founders of the Philippine Bonsai Society.

"The tree and the pot must form a single harmonious unit, with the shape, texture and color of one complementing the other," he says. "The tree must be shaped. It is not enough just to plant a tree in a pot and allow nature to take its course. Every branch and twig of a bonsai is shaped or eliminated until the chosen image is achieved."

To get started, Metilla suggests exploring first your own backyard. You might be able to find materials—plants with gnarled trunks and well-developed root systems—among the old hedges. You could also explore windswept meadows, cliffs, pasturelands and other wild areas.

Ideal items for bonsai-making are trees, shrubs, bushes or herbs, provided they can

MAKE/ p.F3

TO CREATE an upright style, cut off the top leaves. Leave the plant for three to five months until there are new growths of branches, then start pruning again excess trunks.

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